MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

A Lebanese Government source announced that 2 April is Lebanon's "final date" for receiving a "positive answer" from Israel to the U.S. proposals, Beirut radio reported. If Israel's response is negative, Lebanon will have "other alternatives within the framework of President Reagan's plan," the Lebanese official added. Meanwhile, U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib presented President Amin al-Jumayyil's latest proposals on security arrangements to the Israeli foreign and defense ministers in Jerusalem, according to Jerusalem television. Lebanon is willing to establish a joint military committee to which Israel could submit security problems, but it still refuses to give Major Sa'd Haddad responsibility for security in the south, to allow joint IDF-Lebanese patrols, or to permit IDF patrols to cross into Lebanon, the television said. Jerusalem radio subsequently reported that Habib and the Israelis made no great progress in their talks and that one major point of Israeli-Lebanese disagreement concerns Maj Haddad's future role. Earlier, Lebanese sources cited by Beirut radio said Lebanon rejects any military or nonmilitary cooperation with Israel.

Israel

Military Issues -- The Defense Ministry is satisfied with the U.S. announcement on resuming the sale of Sidewinder missiles to Israel, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio added that the ministry views this as a first encouraging sign toward a change in the Defense Department's attitude toward Israel. In another development a field forces command will be set up in the IDF which will unite all ground forces under one body, the radio announced.

Relations With Egypt -- Israel has rejected an Egyptian proposal to increase its oil purchases from Egypt in return for a reduction in price, according to Jerusalem radio. The radio added that Israel decided to buy oil from as many sources as possible following its bitter experience with oil exports from Iran. Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i met in Jerusalem with Egyptian oil officials who affirmed that Egypt will continue to sell oil to Israel according to the agreement between the countries, the radio said.

Syria

Noting the U.S. decision to sell Israel 200 air-to-air missiles, AL-BA'TH said U.S. military aid to Israel is being extended in preparation for "new aggression which is being planned by the U.S. Administration and entrusted to Israel for implementation," Damascus radio reported. At the same time the United States is pursuing an "active diplomacy" in the Middle East aimed at "winning to the side of Israel Arab regimes that could be employed against Syria," AL-BA'TH added.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that an exchange of ambassadors with the Soviet Union may occur this year, Beirut radio announced. 'Ali affirmed that Egypt will not accept any interference in its internal affairs, but he did not give a specific date for the resumption of diplomatic relations. The foreign minister noted that bilateral trade has increased by $100 million and he referred to the return of "some" Soviet experts to Egypt at the request of President Husni Mubarak as another sign that relations have improved, the radio added.

Reaction to EEC Summit

A Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary stated that "the positive points" in the EEC summit statement regarding the Palestinian cause, particularly the affirmation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, constitute "moral support" for Palestinian steadfastness in the "occupied homeland." The radio declared that the statement's emphasis on the importance of PLO participation in any peace negotiations reflects increasing European understanding of the Palestinian people's important role in the efforts to achieve a just and lasting Middle East peace.

A Riyadh radio commentary noted that the EEC leaders hold Israel responsible for not achieving peace because of its "stubborn" positions, but added that the "contradiction" in statements by European officials on their attitudes toward the Palestinian people's rights has become a permanent feature of EEC policy. The radio criticized French President Francois Mitterrand in this respect by pointing out his request to have the PLO recognize Israel as a basic step for the peace negotiations.

PLO

PLO International Department chief Faruq Qaddumi met in Paris with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson for talks on the EEC summit statement on the Middle East, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. The radio also broadcast a commentary criticizing President Reagan's statement that Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories are legal "according to the Camp David accords." Reagan's statement confirms that the U.S. stand toward the Arab-Israeli conflict has not changed an is "a clear confession" that his initiative has failed, the radio asserted. The United States has offered "nothing but false promises" to the Arabs and is now asking them to make up for the U.S. failure to halt the Israeli settlement program by expressing their desire to start negotiations with Israel. Arabs "who are still wagering on the United States" should realize that the latter intends to obtain more Arab concessions while offering Israel everything it demands, the radio concluded.

PDRY-Soviet Military Talks

PDRY military officials held talks with a visiting Soviet delegation headed by Deputy Defense Minister Fleet Admiral Sergey Gorshkov, Aden radio reported.

Afghanistan

Over 200,000 Kabul citizens staged a protest march and meeting voicing their anger and indignation over President Reagan's "provocative utterances" against Afghanistan, BAKHTAR reported. The marchers convened in front of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul and burned effigies of Reagan and Vice President Bush, BAKHTAR added.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARAB LEAGUE CHIEF ON MIDEAST PEACE, MAGHREB UNITY

League Anniversary Statement

LD221514 Kuwait KUNA in English 1034 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, 22 Mar (KUNA) -- Secretary General of the Arab League Chedli Klibi has expressed belief that peace in the Middle East is currently more imminent than at any other time. In a statement distributed here Monday on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the Arab League, Klibi said that "if our efforts along with those of our international friends merge and the Zionist entity resorts to reason," peace would surely ensue. Despite the Arabs' real trend toward peace in the Mideast, the other concerned parties do not show similar enthusiasm, he noted.

Tracing the Arab League's history, Klibi said that the Palestinian ordeal was the most bleak spot in the Arab arena. He indicated, however, that gleams of hope were seen on the horizon after a long period [word indistinct] and following the growing strength which the Arabs' central issue has gained due to the increased backing by world nations coupled with the unanimity of the Arab countries and the PLO on the first ever Arab peace plan to solve the conflict.

Among the Arabs' priorities at present, Klibi said, was the re-instating of Lebanon's sovereignty over all territories and resuming its civil role in the Arab family. The secretary urged the Arab states to back Lebanon in facing the current challenges mainly in the reconstruction of Beirut and the whole of Lebanon. He emphasized that Arab support should spring from the fact that what harms Lebanon negatively affects the rest of the Arab world.

Prospects for 'Great Maghreb'

PM230851 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 20 Mar 83 p 16

[Unattributed report: "The Building of the Great Maghreb Is Henceforth Within the Bounds of Reality"]

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has said he is convinced that "many decisive actions on the path to building the great Arab Maghreb are henceforth within the bounds of reality in light of the meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid and President Habib Bourguiba."

"My talks with President Chadli Bendjedid further strengthened that conviction," Mr Klibi specified after his meeting in Tunis yesterday morning with the president of the republic and FLN Party secretary general.

Referring to the Gulf Cooperation Council, "which," he said, "is a milestone in the building of the Arab nation," the Arab League secretary general recalled that the building of the great Arab Maghreb "is a hope which we have been cherishing for years and which it has been impossible to attain for historical reasons," he stated.

Mr Klibi added that the recent meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II opens up new prospects "not only as regards bilateral relations but also for the whole Arab Maghreb."

It should be recalled that President Chadli Bendjedid had a meeting on Friday with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Welcomes EEC Declaration

LD231817 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Telephone interview with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi on 22 March -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Chedli Klibi, I would like to talk about European-Arab relations. The EEC has just ended its summit in Brussels with a political declaration. Well, I would like to know what you think of the terms of the declaration concerning the Middle East.

[Answer] I think the terms of the final communique are positive. They reflect a profound awareness of the dangers threatening peace and also the determination of the 10 states of the community. We hope this principled position will be followed by action likely to help in opening up the peace process.

We have said on several occasions that Europe has a role, an important role to play not only [words indistinct] in defining the objectives, but it also has the power to contribute to implementing these principles, notably the principle of self-determination, since it was that principle which was stressed in the Venice statement and which was again confirmed in the declaration published today. We believe that our European friends (?are willing) to help in giving substance to this universal right of peoples to self-determination and to choose their destiny freely. I think that can be achieved through trying by all means to persuade the U.S. Administration. Thus we think that our European friends (?are willing) to help in opening up a peace process soon if their words are immediately followed by energetic diplomatic action.

QADDUMI, FRANCE'S CHEYSSON MEET IN PARIS 23 MAR

JN231634 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddum], head of the PLO Political Department, met with Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, in Paris today. The discussion focused on the communique issued by the EEC leaders at the end of their summit meeting yesterday on the Middle East and the Palestinian cause.

PLO RADIO SEES 'POSITIVE POINTS' IN EEC STATEMENT

JN231803 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1610 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Commenting on the statement issued in Brussels following the meetings of the EEC heads of state, our political commentator says:

The European summit statement has some positive points regarding the Palestinian cause, particularly its call for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This indicates that the European states confirm that the Palestinian cause is not a problem of refugees but a problem of people entitled to determine their own fate.

The European statement referred in a positive way to the resolutions of the recent session of the PNC. The statement underlined the importance of the PLO's participation in any peace talks in the region. This alone reflects an increasing European understanding of the fact that the Palestinian people, who are represented by the PLO, are an important and decisive factor in the efforts to bring about a just and durable peace in the region, efforts which are being hampered by Israel and its construction of settlements. The European statement said in this regard that the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories constitute an obstacle to peace efforts. This holds Israel fully and directly responsible for hindering the achievement of a just and durable peace in the region.

There is no doubt that these points included in the European statement are welcomed by our Palestinian people. These people hope that the European states will fully recognize their rights, particularly the right to establish their own independent state on their soil under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. Our people see that the European statement adds to the worldwide rejection of any agreements or plans that may infringe on our people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their own state.

In conclusion we see that the positive points in the European statement regarding the Palestinian cause constitute moral support for our people's steadfastness in the occupied homeland, particularly since our people are firmly facing and resisting the autonomy plots, civil administration, and other shaky alternatives the enemy is trying to revive. This stand will certainly back our people's struggle to attain their inalienable rights and establish their own independent state under their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

AR-RA'Y: PLO'S AL-WAZIR LEAVES AMMAN FOR TUNIS

JN240757 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Amman, AR-RA'Y -- Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, left Amman for Tunis via Damascus yesterday morning where the Palestinian leadership will hold a series of meetings which were described as extremely important. The meetings will pave the way for PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Amman at the beginning of next month.

BAGHDAD PLO RADIO CONDEMNS REAGAN STAND ON SETTLEMENTS

JN231842 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Citing statements by President Ronald Reagan, the British paper THE SUNDAY TIMES said that he considers the construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories legal according to the Camp David agreements. It may be recalled here that President Reagan's initiative contained an article calling on Israel to halt the construction of settlements in the occupied territories.

Many people have doubted any serious U.S. effort to force Israel to stop the construction of settlements. Reacting to Reagan's initiative, Israel announced that it would further expand and strengthen the settlements. Other people, however, thought the United States would soon put real political and economic pressure on Israel to at least stop the construction of the settlements.

President Reagan's statement that the settlements are legal not only further supports the enemy's government but strongly confirms that the U.S. stand on the Arab-Zionist struggle has not changed. It does not take much effort to discover the realities of the U.S. stand in the region. The United States is not only incapable of putting pressure on Israel but is also supplying it with every means of aggression. Furthermore, the United States has long been supplying the enemy with the unlimited amounts of U.S.-made weapons which encouraged Israel to invade Lebanon. Israel is building its settlements in the occupied territories with U.S. money.

On the Arab side, the United States seems helpless and offers nothing but false promises. Reagan's initiative is just one of these promises. The United States, which has failed to convince the Zionist leaders to halt settlement construction, is now trying to put pressure on the Arabs so they will try to convince Israel to halt the construction by expressing a desire to join the peace negotiations.

The United States is asking the Arabs to make up for its failure by expressing their desire to start negotiations with Israel. In this the United States is wagering on the fall of Begin's government and the formation of a new government that will accept the peace process. This not only exposes U.S. impotence and failure to comprehend the reality of the situation in the region, but clarifies to all those who believed in a possible change in U.S. Middle East policy that Washington's policy is based on plotting against the Arabs and their causes.

The U.S. Administration realizes that Israel rejects peace and insists on expansion and continued occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories. The Palestinian revolution, which rejected Reagan's initiative, realized that the U.S. stands lack seriousness and that it is impossible for Washington to change its policy. Reagan's statement on the legitimacy of the settlements is a clear confession that his initiative has failed.

Some of the Arabs who are still wagering on U.S. policy may now be assured that Washington's policy aims at forcing them to make more concessions at a time when it is giving Israel everything it demands.

PLO, NIGERIA ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

JN2317S2 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The brother representative of the PLO in Paris [Ibrahim as-Sus] has stated that Nigeria has decided to establish diplomatic relations with the PLO at the ambassadorial level. He added that the PLO Executive Committee has appointed him nonresident ambassador in Lagos in addition to his current post in Paris. He added that, with Nigeria's decision, the PLO will have diplomatic relations with 12 African countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

MINISTRY STATEMENT FORBIDS OIL MIDDLEMEN

LD232046 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 83

["Text" of statement issued by Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs on 23 March]

[Text] It pleases the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to assure all those concerned that it is the only source that has the right to speak in the name of the Kingdom on oil issues. It has authorized the General Petroleum and Mineral Organization, Petromin, to sell and market the oil of the Kingdom in accordance with the policy of the government in this regard, a policy that does not allow in any circumstances any source except this ministry and Petromin to speak on oil matters and to sell and market oil. It utterly forbids the intervention by brokers or middlemen in this respect.

While warning against falling for the tricks of some persons of weak character who claim they represent Saudi Arabia and can sell Saudi oil, the ministry stresses that the responsibility for any consequences of this will fall entirely on the shoulders of those who deal with such swindlers. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Government has nothing at all to do with this and under no circumstances will it be responsible for this or for its consequences. It will not heed any such claim.

UAE

MINISTER ON COMMITMENT TO OPEC RESOLUTIONS

GF221400 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Dubayy, 22 Mar (WAKH) -- Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid, minister of defense, has affirmed Dubayy's commitment to the OPEC resolutions approved in London recently.

WAM quoted Dr Mani's Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources, as saying after his meeting this morning with Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid that he has received assurances of Dubayy's commitment to the OPEC resolutions on prices and production in accordance with the UAE's policy. Dr al-'Utaybah said Dubayy will defend the oil market for the general good of the peoples of the OPEC countries, pointing out that he briefed Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid on the position of the OPEC countries in general and the UAE's stand in particular on prices and production and on what was agreed upon during the recent London meeting.

BRIEFS

LABOR LAW VIOLATORS -- Abu Dhabi, 22 Mar (QNA) -- Today's issue of the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD reported that about 200 persons have been arrested for violating the labor, immigration, and nationality law in the Abu Dhabi amirate. The newspaper said the campaign, carried out by a committee from the police of the city of Al-'Ayn, the Labor Ministry, and the attorney general's office, resulted in the arrests of these violators, who belong to many Asian nationalities, including a large number of infiltrators and persons leaving their sponsors and others wanted for interrogation on various charges. The newspaper added that this is the first time the attorney general's office has supervised a search campaign against violators and escapees. [Doha QNA in Arabic 1920 GMT 22 Mar 83 GF]

PDRY

OFFICIAL RECEIVES USSR'S ADMIRAL GORSHKOV

GF231348 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Staff Brigadier 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau first deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, met in his office today with Soviet Fleet Admiral Sergey Georgiyevich Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and commander in chief of the naval forces.

During the meeting, recent political developments on the Arab and international arenas, particularly in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean, and the cooperation between our country and the Soviet Union were discussed.

Adm Gorshkov expressed the Soviet Union's appreciation for its relations with the PDRY and reaffirmed the Soviet Union's principled support for the PDRY on the basis of the friendship and cooperation agreement.

Brother 'Ali 'Antar expressed his satisfaction for the continuous development of the relations between the two friendly countries. He said that with the cooperation of the peaceloving powers, foremost of which is the Soviet Union, the PDRY will struggle in order to make the region a region of security, stability, and peace. He also denounced the tension (?escalated) by the U.S. imperialism and its friends in the region.

The meeting was attended by Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and members of the accompanying delegation.

Military Talks Begin

GF231818 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The official talks between our country's delegation and the USSR delegation which is currently visiting our country began at the guest house this morning.

The PDRY military delegation was headed by Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Armed Forces. The Soviet delegation was headed by Soviet Fleet Admiral Sergey Gorshkov, deputy minister minister, and commander in chief of the Soviet naval fleet.

During the talks, issues of mutual interest to the two friendly countries, and the means to develop and strengthen them, along with the situation in the Arab region were discussed.

Col 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah expressed his appreciation for the Soviet Union's supportive and constant stance toward our country, our Arab people, and the Palestinian revolution, as well as for the efforts of the Soviet experts who work in our country's armed forces.

Comrade Sergey Gorshkov expressed his appreciation for our country's policy which has won international respect for our country and which is based on mutual coexistence, international solidarity, and nonintervention in the domestic affairs of others.

ANA, TASS OFFICIALS HOLD TALKS 23 MARCH

GF231810 Aden ANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Aden, 23 Mar (ANA) -- Official talks between ANA Director General Najib Muhammad Ibrahim and Comrade Sergey Andreyevich Losen, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Central Auditing Commission, and TASS director general, were held at the ANA offices today, Wednesday. The talks dealt with the issue of developing and bolstering relations between the two agencies in all fields.

Comrade Losev arrived in Aden this morning for a visit to our country that will last several days.

SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATION DEPARTS 23 MARCH

GF231733 Aden ANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Comrade Vitaliy Provotorov, secretary general of the Central Trade Union Council of the Soviet Union, left Aden this morning following a visit to our country that lasted several days. During the visit, he met with a number of officials in the General Union of the republic's trade unions and learned about the fundamental trends in trade union action in our country and the significant role that is being played by the trade unions in establishing a socialist society.

In a press statement made to ANA, Comrade Provotorov expressed his utmost admiration for the role of popular organizations and trade union committees in the implementation of their duties in the field of organizing production competitions on the path of developing the national economy.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Muhammad 'Abd al-Jalil as-Sarari, the secretary of the Central Council for Economic Affairs, and a number of officials from the General Union of trade unions in the republic.

BULGARIAN OFFICIAL CONCLUDES VISIT 23 MAR

GF231310 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Comrade Dimitur Stoyanov, member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and internal affairs minister of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, left Aden today after concluding a visit to the PDRY that lasted several days.

INTERVIEW WITH MUBARAK BY TOKYO TELEVISION

OW231523 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 1215 GMT 23 Mar 83

["Exclusive interview" with President Mubarak by NHK Europe general bureau chief Shibatsuji and Cairo correspondent Yanagisawa on 23 March in Cairo -- recorded; in English, fading into Japanese translation]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, could you tell us what you are most interested in seeing when you visit Japan?

[Answer] In seeing? Really, for me, it is the first time to visit Japan, so I cannot tell you what I am going to see. I have been told by your people that I should see Japan as a whole. But the time is very limited. And after my first visit I could tell you what more I would like to see in Japan. But from the beginning I know nothing about Japan.

[Question] Mr President, I would like to turn to the Palestinian issue. What is the present situation? In terms of a final settlement, do you see it as the beginning of the final phase or an end of the initial phase?

[Answer] Frankly speaking, I cannot tell whether we are in an initial phase or in the final phase. I cannot tell where the issue lies now. You know that there have been several Middle East peace plans. First of all, there was the Fes plan. Then the proposal by President Reagan. It can be said that the Fes plan was too idealistic and somewhat unrealistic. Do we, the Arabs, really have the strength to put the Fes peace plan into action? I do not think that it is an easy thing for us to do, especially when we know that major countries involved do not support the plan.

Meanwhile, the other plan was proposed by the U.S. President. President Reagan announced it on 1 September last year. Even now, he says that he wants to see the plan put into action at any time, and that he will support its implementation with everything in his power.

In order to carry out the Reagan plan and to take steps toward a comprehensive peace, there must first of all be some kind of a link established between the PLO and King Husayn so that the United States can exercise influence over Israel and bring Israel to the negotiating table and set in motion a realistic move toward peace. Unless this link is established, and unless an agreement is reached on it, however, there is no way of conducting negotiations.

From my point of view, it is necessary to begin negotiations within the next 2 or 3 months and to make progress one way or another. Otherwise, it will be time for the presidential election in the United States, which will continue for 1 year or so. Then, the U.S. President will be preoccupied with the presidential election and too busy to think about anything else. Therefore, unless negotiations are begun before the U.S. presidential election campaign gets underway, and unless some progress is made before the start of that campaign, everything will be frozen, as far as the U.S. effort is concerned. So, the important point is for negotiations to be begun before the start of the U.S. presidential election campaign.

If a new administration comes into being as a result of the presidential election, it will take a couple of months to review the plan, further putting off a settlement. Within the coming year or year and a half, Israel will probably build settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a whole.

Once settlements have been built, it would be extremely difficult for any public opinion to change what has been established. The situation, therefore, will become more complex and difficult.

[Question] I would like to ask you about some prospects, Mr President. What is the outlook for better relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union?

[Answer] The Soviet Union is a superpower. As you know, the world has two superpowers now -- the United States and the Soviet Union. We have very good relations with the United States now. At the same time, we have no fear at all about having normal relations with the Soviet Union. I must point out, however, that Egypt is a nonaligned country. India, for instance, is a nonaligned country, too. While it maintains very good relations with both the Soviet Union and the United States, India has special ties with the USSR. it has ties of close cooperation in the military, economic, industrial and various other areas. We are in the same situation -- we have good relations with the united States.

However, the fact that we maintain good relations with the United States does not preclude our having normal relations with other countries. If you ask me when we will establish normal relations with the Soviet Union, I would have to say that that will probably be the subject of a future decision. It is a matter of time.

[Question] My next question is about Egypt's domestic situation. What kind of political doctrine do you have, Mr President?

[Answer] The first thing is for me to speak to the people frankly about everything concerning the state of the country -- concerning the realities of the country -- the economic situation and everything else. Only by so doing will it become possible to govern the nation on firm foundations.

Second, no one should be allowed to be beyond the rule of law. The should be applied on an equal basis to everyone who violates it. There are various kinds of propaganda and false reports to the effect that corruption and illegal practices are rampant in Egypt. They are not true. The rate of such crimes is lower in Egypt than in other countries.

[Question] What is the most urgent problem Egypt is faced with now, Mr President?

[Answer] It is the economic problem. As you know, we have embarked on a 5-year plan that is in its first phase this year. I have been saying that we will fulfill this 5-year plan without fail, because it is the only way for us to achieve economic progress.

[Question] Mr President. do you think that the role Japan is playing now in economic cooperation is adequate?

[Answer] As far as I know, Japan has been giving us very good cooperation since the October War. It took part in the Suez Canal reopening project and has been cooperating with Egypt in many areas. And, of course, I will shortly be visiting Japan and during my visit I will ask for further cooperation. Very strong and close cooperation is already underway between Japan and Egypt. However, only yesterday I attended opening ceremonies for a hospital built with grants from Japan, which is a very good symbol of Japanese-Egyptian cooperation.

[Question] Mr President, would you give us your suggestions about Japan's role in the Middle East peace efforts? Do you think Japan should just sit back and do nothing, or that it should take some positive action?

[Answer] Japan has very close relations with the United States and many European nations. And it has been supporting us in the Middle East peace efforts. Therefore, I see myslef in no position to ask for anything more than that from Japan. I just want Japan to continue to support us as in the past, thereby helping us move closer to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We understand very well and highly appreciate what Japan has done. We are not asking Japan to do anything more than that.

[Question] Thank you, Mr President. We wish you good luck and hope that you will enjoy your visit to our country.

'ALI ON EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS WITH USSR

NC231752 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Today, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the year 1983 may witness the exchange of ambassadors with the Soviet Union. He also noted that trade between both countries has increased by $100 million.

The Egyptian minister added that the reports carried by the Soviet mass media about Egypt, which were critical in the past, have become better. He referred to the return of some Soviet experts to Egypt at the request of President Mubarak as another sign that relations, which have deteriorated since 1972 and led to the expulsion of the Soviet experts, have become better.

But Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who did not mention a date for the resumption of relations with Moscow, said that Egypt will not accept any interference in its internal affairs. He referred to the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan by saying that Egypt's stance on their withdrawal has not changed.

CABINET MEETS ON POLICY QUESTIONS 23 MARCH

NC231545 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The Cabinet met at noon today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din to discuss questions pertaining to external, internal, and supply policies. The Cabinet discussed also a draft law amending some provisions of the law on the planning of buildings.

Safwat ash-Sharif Comment

NC231648 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] At its meeting today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the Cabinet discussed the results of the nonaligned states summit conference which was held in New Delhi and attended by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif said that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained in his report to the Cabinet the important role which Egypt carried out at the summit and its influential role in the resolutions approved by the summit on the Middle East, the Palestinian question, the situation in Lebanon, and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Ash-Sharif added that 'Ali explained to the Cabinet the aims of the visits which President Husni Mabarak will pay to China, North Korea, Japan, and Indonesia.

The minister of state further said that the Cabinet has approved the draft law pertaining to the amendment of some provisions of the law on planning buildings. The draft law seeks to perfect the control on construction operations.

Ash-Sharif also said that Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din asserted at today's Cabinet meeting the importance of following up the implementation of the development plan projects to guarantee that they will fully realize their aims by raising the standard of performance in production and services to provide integrated services to all citizens. The prime minister further stressed the importance of coordination among all the ministries and the National Democratic Party's specialized committees to achieve full partnership in the decisionmaking.

AS-SIYASI QUOTED ON LIBYAN SABOTAGE ATTEMPTS

NC220943 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 21 Mar 83 p 12

[Text] Cairo -- AFP -- The Egyptian paper AS-SIYASI, the organ of the ruling National Democratic Party, has reported that the Egyptian authorities have recently discovered a new Libyan attempt to recruit some elements to carry out acts of sabotage along the common Libyan-Egyptian border and in some big cities.

The paper added that the Egyptian security organs arrested some persons in whose possession they found some documents and money supplied by Tripoli. These persons told the responsible authorities of the Libyan attempts to recruit them.

The paper further said the detained persons handed over the documents they had in their possession and the money they received from the Libyan authorities -- $3,000 for each recruit -- as down payments.

The paper further reported that the Egyptian security organs have seized some Libyan civilian cars equipped with secret hiding places in which arms and explosives were concealed.

AS-SIYASI did not disclose the date of the arrest of these persons or their citizenship, but it said that the full details will be announced shortly.

In 1977 the late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat used as a pretext the series of explosions in the main Egyptian cities to wage a war on the border of the Libyan Jamahiriyah which led to the closing of the border between the two states since then.

UN ENVOY ON LIBYAN 'OCCUPATION' OF CHAD

NC231928 Cairo MENA in English 1839 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] United Nations, March 23 (MENA) -- Addressing the Security Council, Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil, permanent representative of Egypt, said that respect for the territorial integrity of Chad was a right for the people of Chad and was a necessity for peace and security in the region.

He said a part of Chad "was still under occupation" by Libya. Chad was fully justified in coming to the Security Council. In his speech, the representative of Libya had made no attempt to resolve the problem before the council, he said.

At least, he said, the Council could call on Libya to respect the territorial integrity of Chad and put an end to the tension existing between the two countries.

GHALI COMMENTS ON EC SUMMIT MIDEAST DECLARATION

NC231538 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has commented on the declaration issued by the EC summit saying that the declaration expresses the EC concern over the stagnation on the Lebanese and Palestinian fronts. He added that the declaration demands the immediate withdrawal of all forces from Lebanon and expresses its support for U.S. efforts to achieve this goal.

Regarding the Palestinian question, the declaration reaffirms the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and EC support for President Reagan's initiative and condemns the settlements policy which violates the international rules of law and threatens peace.

Dr Ghali said that Europe expects important moves in the next few weeks, but we do not want to anticipate events.

65 AL-JIHAD ORGANIZATION CASE DETAINEES RELEASED

NC231606 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) -- The State Security Supreme Prosecution today decided to released 65 defendants who were detained for investigation in the case of the al-Jihad organization.

Counselor Raja' al-Arabi, attorney general for the State Security Supreme Prosecution, has told MENA that, within the next few days, the State Security Prosecution will complete investigations of all those detained in connection with the Al-Jihad case. He said: the prosecution will subsequently make its decisions to settle their cases.

PAPERS REPORT ON TRIAL OF AL-JIHAD MEMBERS

NC240834 Cairo MENA in English 0735 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 24 (MENA) -- "AL-AKHBAR" leads its front-page news with a report on the bill of indictment released by the State Security Prosecution in the third part of the case of the clandestine Al-Jihad (holy war) extremist group involving 176 defendants to be put on trial for conspiring to overthrow the government by force.

The bill of indictment is also reported on the front pages and inner pages of "AL-AHRAM" and "AL-JUMHURIYAH".

The defendants face charges of plotting to assassinate senior officials of the state, political and military leaders, and public figures, the papers said.

The defendants, who were part of the same organization which assassinated the late president Anwar as-Sadat and carried out assaults on the police in Asyut in October 1981, are accused of seeking to regroup the fugitive remnants of the organization at home and those who fled to Yemen and Jordan, the papers added.

IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES REPORTED 21-23 MARCH

Communique No 1,036

JN221655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces have inflicted on the Iranian forces of aggression losses in men and equipment, amounting to 20 killed, 3 vehicles, 1 106-mm gun, 1 hardware stockpile, 1 observation post, and 1 infantry position destroyed.

The Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,036 issued here tonight said that during their operations in the Maysan sector and the area east of Basra, the Iraqi forces found a number of serviceable weapons and equipment. The communique also said that Basra and Mandali were shelled by the artillery of the criminal Khomeyniite clique causing some damage in civilian installations. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,036 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The sons of Iraq continues to record their epics in the glorious battle of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah during their operations against the unjust forces of aggression of the Khomeyniite clique. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units attacked an enemy concentration in the Maysan sector using various weapons killing 11, destroying 3 vehicles, and 1 hardware stockpile. In the same sector, one of our patrol units found a number of serviceable weapons and equipment.

2. One of our units spotted a group of enemy personnel opposite our forces in the central sector of the front. Our unit attacked them killing seven and wounding others.

3. Two were killed, one 106-mm gun and one infantry position were destroyed, and a number of serviceable light weapons were found in the area east of Basra.

4. The artillery of the criminal Khomeyniites today shelled Basra and Mandali and their environs causing some damage in civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 March 1983

Communique No 1,037

JN231733 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,037 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 23 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The glorious armies of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah continue their courageous activities on the battlefield against the clique of rancor and charlatanism ruling in Tehran and Qom. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units sighted two enemy concentrations opposite their positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our units struck them with their weapons, killing eight and destroying one gun.

2. Our valiant aircraft today raided enemy troop concentrations and positions in the areas opposite our units' positions in the Maysan operational theater in the central sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

3. An enemy patrol approached one of our forward units' positions in the Maysan operational theater. A force belonging to this unit clashed with the enemy patrol, pursued it, and captured one of its members as the others fled. One was also killed in the same sector.

4. One was killed and four infantry positions and one hardware stockpile destroyed in the area east of Basra.

5. The artillery of the mean Iranian enemy today shelled Mandali and Sayyid Sadiq, causing some damage to one house in Mandali and wounding one civilian in Sayyid Sadiq.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General General Command, 23 March 1983

RADIO REPORTS IRANIAN OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES

JN231941 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Twenty-three Khomeyni guards were killed in an attack carried out by a group of armed Kurds last Thursday against (Hamarand) base in (Ravad) region in Sar Dasht. This came in a statement issued in Paris today by the bureau of the Iranian opposition organization, Mojahedin-e Khalq.

The statement said that the fighters who oppose Khomeyni's policy and repressive regime, used bombs, RPG launchers, and machineguns in their attack. The statement added that a large number of Khomeyni's aides were wounded as a result of this successful operation against the above-mentioned base. The statement also explained that this base has always been a major center for oppressing the inhabitants of the Kurdish villages in (Ravad).

The statement pointed out that Iranian armed resistance groups had launched a series of successful attacks against (Hamarand) base, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment on Khomeyni's aides. Mojahedin-e Khalq stressed that the members of the attacking group returned safely to base after carrying out this operation.

TURKEY WARNS SYRIA OVER AID TO ARMENIANS

JN231150 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Ankara, 23 Mar (INA) -- It was learned here today that the Syrian regime's assistance to Turkish terrorists will be the main topic of the talks the Turkish foreign minister will hold during his visit to Damascus during the next 2 days. The INA correspondent here said that the Turkish foreign minister will ask the Damascus regime to end its assistance to the terrorists who are planning the attempts on the lives of Turkish diplomats abroad, and to uproot their training camps in the Syrian-controlled Al-Biqa' region.

The correspondent added that the Turkish Government last Monday addressed a warning to the Syrian Government through diplomatic channels concerning the mounting activities of the Turkish Armenian terrorists.

BRIEFS

CREDENTIALS OF NEW AMBASSADORS -- President Saddam Husayn this morning received the credentials of Abdurakhman Gunadirya, the new Indonesian ambassador to Iraq. The president also received the credentials of Mohamed Yahya Ould Ahmed al-Hadi, the Mauritanian ambassador to Iraq. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Mar 83 JN]

SALIM PREDICTS SIGNS OF AGREEMENT IN 2 WEEKS

NC231248 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Ambassadors Philip Habib and Morris Draper arrived in Israel today from Beirut to brief Israeli officials on the Lebanese stance regarding the new U.S. proposals concerning the comprehensive withdrawals from Lebanon at a time when threads of a specific solution are beginning to appear on the horizon. The signs of a solution will inevitably appear in the next 2 weeks.

This was reaffirmed by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today when he said: We have not changed our views with respect to what we have said about the importance of these 2 weeks. We hope that a glimmer of hope will appear during this time, God willing.

Minister Salim was speaking after meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad in Mansur Palace at 1100 today. He added: I met with Speaker al-As'ad and briefed him on the Washington talks in detail and on what we have reached with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz. We also briefed him on the Israeli reaction to the new U.S. proposals. Then I placed myself at the disposal of the Chamber of Deputies to answer questions about the results of the tour which we had made and the progress of the talks and the stage they have reached.

U.S. Middle East affairs expert William Quandt has expressed optimism with respect to the desired agreement and said the meetings which were held in Washington last week will lead to an agreement concerning the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon within the next 3 months.

SOURCES ON ISRAELI REACTION TO U.S. PROPOSALS

NC231420 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Diplomatic sources note the 2-week period referred to by the Lebanese foreign minister and say that if no agreement is reached within that period in accordance with the provisions contained in the agenda, Lebanon will be compelled to think of an alternative if it does not object to the continuation of the negotiations.

These sources added that if Israel is attaching the question of its withdrawal from Lebanon to the Palestine question or if the reason for deferring the negotiations to reach an agreement on the Israeli forces' withdrawl is to obtain concessions from Lebanon on the pretext of the U.S. elections, Lebanon would be obliged to work for not attaching the Lebanese question to the Palestine issue, utilizing its influence and relations with other states to achieve the withdrawals. Lebanon cannot restrict its efforts and activity to the negotiations only. Lebanon believes that the provisions on which the negotiations are held have been fully discussed and that it cannot concede more because this would detract from its sovereignty. The Lebanese stance is clear and there is complete U.S. sympathy with Lebanon.

According to these sources, the Israeli answer was not positive. During the Washington talks, Lebanon made its approval of the U.S. proposals conditional upon Israel's approval of them. If the Israeli answer is negative, Lebanon will be compelled to withdraw its approval of the proposals and to return to the agreement which was laid down during the talks with Ambassador Philip Habib about 15 days ago.

DEADLINE FOR ISRAELI ANSWER SET AT 2 APRIL

NC232124 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] A prominent government source has set Saturday, 2 April, as the final date for receiving a positive answer from Israel.

He added that if this answer is negative, Lebanon will have other alternatives within the framework of President Reagan's plan. The government source affirmed that Lebanon's declared stance has become clear and that the provisions agreed upon in Washington are final and are not open for discussion.

HABIB TO CONVEY ISRAELI ANSWER TO LEBANON

NC240917 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Lebanese officials are today focusing their attention on the contacts U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib and his assistant Ambassador Morris Draper are holding in Israel. The latest reports indicate that Ambassador Habib might return to Beirut tomorrow carrying the Israeli answer to the recent Lebanese stance for achieving the withdrawals from Lebanon. The Israeli stand is expected to have an obvious effect on the progress of the tripartite negotiations, which will be resumed in Netanya tomorrow.

AL-JUMAYYIL CHAIRS WEEKLY CABINET MEETING

NC232018 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The Cabinet ended its meeting tonight at 1945. President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting, which started at 1800 in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers.

AT the beginning of the session, his excellency the president briefed the Cabinet on the security situation, which is characterized by relative calm; he noted the general satisfaction which prevailed in all economic circles as a result of the closure of the illegal ports and the remarkable increase in custom revenues at the Beirut port. Afterward, the president pointed out that political interest has been focused on the visit made by the Lebanese delegation to Washington. It was a very useful initiative that has affirmed Lebanese rights, particularly in the U.S. arena, which was not left for the Israeli delegation to exploit in the way it likes.

Then, the foreign and expatriates minister reported on the activities of the Lebanese delegation in Washington and the talks it had at all levels with the various authorities in the United States to explain the Lebanese issue and to positively, seriously, and objectively defend the Lebanese stance.

Afterward, Minister of Finance Engineer 'Adil Hamiyyah explained the results of the contacts and talks he had at the financial level with the various quarters concerned with Lebanon's support for development and reconstruction projects.

ISRAEL RELEASES 90 POW'S FROM ANSAR 23 MAR

NC240746 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The Israeli forces yesterday released 90 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners of war from the Ansar detention camp. Most of them are from the Sidon and Tyre camps and the nearby villages. The prisoners were transferred in military vehicles to Sidon Government House and from there to Tyre and other areas.

Protest Against Ansar Detentions

NC240844 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] A large group of Jabal 'Amil ulema yesterday staged a symbolic sit-in at Al-Husayni club in An-Nabatiyah in protest against the detention of Jibshit Imam Shaykh Raghib Harb and the continuing detention of thousands of persons in the Ansar detention camp.

Yesterday, there were protest movements in other villages in Az-Zahrani district, where students staged a demonstration cutting the main Sidon-Tyre and As-Saksakiyah-'Adlun roads. The demonstration ended in a confrontation with the Israeli occupation forces, which opened fire to disperse the demonstrators, who used stones and sticks in self-defense. Three persons were wounded and were removed to hospitals in the area.

Dozens of ulema proceeded to Husayniyah An-Nabatiyah yesterday morning. They held a meeting there at which speeches were made urging resistance against and rejection of the occupation. The ulema were joined by many citizens and students, who have also organized a protest demonstration.

Religious ulema in Ba'labakk have declared their solidarity with the movement led by men of religion in southern Lebanon. The Ba'labakk ulema yesterday circulated a statement calling on the citizens in the area to strike today in protest against the detention of Shaykh Harb. The statement called for the withdrawal of the occupation army from the south.

Tripoli city yesterday declared its full support of the people's upsurge against the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon. A solidarity rally organized by the popular committees grouping was held at the Ahmad as-Sufi cultural social center in Tripoli, where a call was made for closing ranks in support of the people's upsurge and all forms of resistance against the occupation.

SOURCES DENY MILITARY COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL

NC231820 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Lebanese sources have firmly denied that the U.S. proposals imply anything regarding the establishment of military cooperation between Lebanon and Israel at the level of intelligence organizations or through the formation of joint patrols to supervise security in the south.

The sources affirmed that any military or non-military cooperation with Israel is rejected as this would affect Lebanese sovereignty. The Lebanese Government is interested in maintaining its sovereignty through its emphasis on only the Lebanese Army, in cooperation with the multinational force or the international forces, being responsible for providing security in the south.

FRANJIYAH INTERVIEWED BY SOVIET JOURNALISTS

NC200944 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 Mar 83

["Text" of interview granted by former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah to Soviet journalists representing PRAVDA, NOVOSTI, and LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in his palace in Zgharta on 18 Mar -- read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Question: Your Excellency, it is well known that the Israeli aggression against Lebanon has continued for approximately 9 months. What are your views of the current situation in Lebanon in light of this continued aggression?

Answer: I question whether a country has a right to occupy another. This is inconceivable. For Israel, however, everything is conceivable when it has personal interests.

Israel occupied part of Lebanon under the pretext that it wanted to cleanse the Lebanese territory of the Palestinian people. What is the reason for the Palestinian people's presence in Lebanon? Israel's existence made the Palestinian people's presence in Lebanon inevitable. Had it not been for Israel's existence, the Palestinians would have been in their homes. Israel came to the area claiming 2,000-year ownership and alleging that was its property. If Israel wants to go by history, it should have gone to Egypt and not to Palestine. The Israelis lived in Egypt and the pharaoh expelled them. Regrettably, Israel convinced the United States that it is protecting U.S. interests throughout the east.

During World War II, the Allies besieged Berlin for a long time. They dropped 20,000 bombs on Berlin, whereas in 12 hours in Beirut, 240,000 bombs fell on its population. Some of these bombs were dropped for testing. Regrettably, instead of checking Israel, the United States increased its aid to Israel by hundreds of millions of dollars, as if to reward it for its crimes. In my view, the basic aim of the Israeli war in Lebanon is economic. An indication of this is what happened in southern Beirut, where 65 percent of the Lebanese industry is located. Israel either destroyed the factories or dismantled them and took them to Israel. Industry in southern Beirut is now moribund.

In the current chaos, the Israelis are trying to obtain from Lebanon what they obtained from Egypt, that is, to isolate Lebanon from the Arab countries. Should Lebanon be isolated from the Arab countries, peace may be established between Israel and the Arabs. The sole economic competitor of Israel in the Arab world is Lebanon. If Lebanon is removed, the Arab countries and their enormous wealth will become a vital market for the 3 million Israelis. Thus 30 million Arabs with their enormous wealth will become a vital market for the 3 million Israelis.

[Question] The Lebanese-Israeli negotiations have not produced any tangible results. Do you agree with this view, particularly since the United States, which bears the responsibility for the aggression against Lebanon, is a partner in negotiations between the aggressor and the victim?

[Answer] My view of these negotiations is that they are a waste of time. The part of Lebanon that is occupied by the enemy is economically unproductive. If a Lebanese does not produce, he cannot satisfy his hunger. If this situation persists, and I am 100 percent sure that these negotiations will continue for a long time, many Lebanese will be forced to emigrate.

[Question] What about the U.S. role and mediation efforts?

[Answer] The Americans are attending the negotiations as a third party. In my view, the U.S. side is a party and not an umpire. The bombs that fell on the Beirut people, the aircraft that bombed Beirut, the tanks and artillery pieces were all made by the United States. How can the party that gave weapons to one group to defeat a third be an umpire between the two sides? This is unreasonable, but circumstances made this acceptable.

[Question] There is the intention to expand the area of deployment of the multinational forces and to reinforce them. Is there any danger for Lebanon's future, particularly since the member-countries of these forces are NATO members? Is there a danger that Lebanon may be dragged into NATO?

[Answer] You must put this question to the Lebanese officials, because I am now an ordinary citizen. I maintain, however, that the deployment of the multinational force contingents in the areas where they are now is necessary. Their extension, however, throughout Lebanon, in my view, would be like a foreign occupation.

[Question] How is the situation in southern Lebanon, particularly regarding the storming of houses and arrests of people?

[Answer] Regrettably, the Palestinians in southern Lebanon have left unpleasant memories. Israel occupied southern Lebanon on the pretext of the Palestinian presence there. What is happening there now? As is happening in Beirut and Jabal Lubnan, there are Israeli agents who are acting to enable Israel to stay in southern Lebanon.

[Question] How would you classify Sa'd Haddad's forces?

[Answer] I cannot distinguish between Haddad's and Sharon's forces; they are the same. There is no such thing as Haddad forces. There are Sharon forces which include a unit commanded by Haddad.

[Question] The United States and Israel are demanding that Haddad's forces be integrated into the Lebanese Army as one of the security arrangements. They are also asking for early warning stations. What are your views on this?

[Answer] In my view, early warning stations would stay in Lebanese territory. This is totally rejected. Regarding Sa'd Haddad and his soldiers, they left the Army. If they want to return to the Lebanese Army, their age does not allow them to return. They can retire or be discharged. The young soldiers can leave Haddad and join the Army.

[Question] What are your views of the resistance to the occupation in Lebanon?

[Answer] I hope it will increase tenfold.

[Question] Israel is instigating sectarian sedition directly or through its agents to serve its purposes. What are your views on this?

[Answer] As long as Lebanon is one and united, Israel cannot implement its dreams of making the Arab people a total zone of its influence. History taught the West, regrettably, that the point of weakness in this area is sectarianism. When it wants to do something against the interests of the area, the West plays on this tune. The Israelis provided both parties in 'Alayh with weapons to exacerbate sectarianism. What is happening in Tripoli is 3 years old. Agents of Israeli agents, namely, agents of the Phalangists, who have been proven to be Israeli agents, are receiving orders and assistance.

[Question] Western information media equate the Syrian forces in Lebanon and the Israeli occupation forces. How would you answer them?

[Answer] It is not just the Western information media that put it that way. Some officials in Lebanon, when they speak about the withdrawal of forces, call them foreign forces without exception. They put all the forces -- Israeli, Syrian, and Palestinian -- on the same level. Israel entered and occupied Lebanon by force, whereas Syria entered at the request of the Lebanese authorities. Had Syria not entered Lebanon, Lebanon would have become 10 statelets. The Syrian president has repeatedly announced on various occasions that he is ready to leave Lebanon when the Lebanese authorities ask him. If the Syrians withdraw from Lebanon while the Israelis stay, the border between Syria and the enemy will be 350 instead of 120 km. What would then prevent the enemy from attacking Syria from the Lebanese-Syrian borders, which are not fortified and have no military forces?

[Question] The deployment of the SAM-5's in Syria has raised a great commotion. What is your reply to this campaign?

[Answer] This campaign is not based on sound logic. Just as a man has a right to self-defense, so does a state. The people with unsound logic are surprised that there are some in the area who refuse to raise white flags, put up their hands and surrender to Israel. This is unsound logic. I hope that Syria will be given tenfold what it has been given.

[Question] What is the national Lebanese stand on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon?

[Answer] I will answer this question only for myself. In my view the Palestinian cause is sacred. Regrettably, the Palestinians did not know how to behave in the country that hosted them. They came to Lebanon, and we opened our hearts and arms to them. At one time, however, the Palestinians -- I do not know the reasons why -- imagined themselves the masters of Lebanon and, regrettably, even worked to become the masters. Today, the Lebanese view of the Palestinian is one thing and of the Palestinian cause another. The Palestinian question is sacred to everyone in the world and not just to the Arabs. I am Christian and believe in my religion. If I were to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, what I would hear about the places there would be unfit to hear and unacceptable.

[Question] Your Excellency, how would you assess the Soviet stand on the Lebanese question throughout the various stages and on the Middle East crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Answer] There is nothing wrong with it. On the information level, we have the AN-NIDA' newspaper, which is not a bad paper. This paper is not widely read. PRAVDA is a daily Soviet newspaper. Why doesn't PRAVDA send an Arabic translation of what it publishes on the Middle East?

All the Arab countries have newspapers in Lebanon that represent their views. Even Israel has newspapers representing its views in Lebanon. I hope the PRAVDA reports on Arab affairs will be published the same day or a day later in a Lebanese newspaper. When a report is published in PRAVDA, I, an ordinary citizen who knows that PRAVDA is the mouthpiece of the Soviet Union, will morally change my views.

[Question] What is your view of Lebanese-Soviet relations?

[Answer] Fortunately, the Lebanese-Soviet relations since independence have been excellent and, God willing, will continue. As for the Soviet stand toward Lebanon, I do not know it. As for fraternal Syria, I extend a thousand thanks to the Soviet Union. I hope that the Soviet aid to Syria will increase tenfold and that cohesion between the two countries will be very strong. The latest report we have heard quoting PRAVDA is that the Soviet Union will not sit idly by should Syria be attacked. This stand was enough to make Shamir forget that Damascus was within his artillery range. He no longer talks about the SAM-5's. This is the reason why I say that reports by PRAVDA gave an effect different from any other information media.

[Question] Lebanon is suffering from several problems. What in your view is the primary and basic problem that must be tackled?

[Answer] The primary problem is the Israeli presence on Lebanese territory. The biggest problems will arise if, God forbid, the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations produce results in favor of Israel. We will destroy our existence if we give the least of what Israel is demanding.

[Question] Your Excellency, as for the possibility of Israel attacking Syria, when do you expect such an attack?

[Answer] We are now in the early months of 1983. I assure you that no attacks will occur during this year. As to what the United States will invent in 1984, I do not know, nor do I know what you, the Soviets, can provide Syria. There are 10 million people in Syria whereas Israel has 3 million. Syria is backed by the Soviet Union while Israel is backed by the United States. The United States gives Israel its latest inventions of weapons whereas, here I allow myself to say, for the first time the Soviet Union has provided Syria with new weapons such as the SAM-5's. Soviet aircraft are no match for the U.S. aircraft. I am speaking of the aircraft available in Syria. What there is in the Soviet Union, I do not know. The Israelis are superior to the Syrians in terms of aircraft and tanks.

[Question] How do you view Soviet-Syrian relations?

[Answer] There is a friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries. This treaty was not imposed on the Soviet Union or Syria. Both countries agreed on this treaty. I hope it will continue and strengthen.

[Question] Supplying Syria with the SAM-5's is within the framework of this treaty? What is your view?

[Answer] As we know, there is constant competition between the Soviet Union and the United States. This is well known worldwide. This competition involves everything except one thing, which is the most important to us. The United States gives Israel 1,000 things, whereas the Soviet Union gives Syria only 5. Do what the United States is doing. Give Syria as much as the United States is giving Israel. Thus, you will be in harmony with yourselves and with your political positions. When you do so, I will be astounded if Israel survives 1 hour.

USSR DELEGATION VISITS SYRIAN CITIES 23 MAR

JN232037 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The friendly USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the Presidium and chairman of the Presidium of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet, returned to Damascus this evening following a tour of the cities of Tudmur and Ath-Thawrah. During the tour, he visited the antiquities, tourist sites, and the most important economic institutions in the two cities.

In a speech after visiting Tudmur, Koshoyev praised the efforts being exerted by the Syrian Government to preserve these precious and valuable antiquities. During his visit to the city of Ath-Thawrah, Koshoyev praised the constructive cooperation between Syria and the USSR, of which the Euphrates Dam is the most prominent example. He said that Syrian-Soviet friendship is firm and constant and it will continue on the course of construction and progress and be the foundation of the confrontation trench against imperialism, Zionism and the enemies of mankind.

NEW AMBASSADOR TO USSR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

JN232033 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Moscow, 23 Mar (SANA) -- Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, Syrian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Moscow, today presented his credentials to Ivan Maksimovich Kuznetsov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and first vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Speaking after the ceremony, Al-Halabi conveyed heartfelt greetings from President Hafiz al-Asad to the Soviet leaders and peoples. He spoke highly of the strong ties between the two countries, governments, parties, and peoples, stressing that these ties have produced great results. He added that we are working together to further increase Syria's strength in the face of U.S.-Zionist designs.

Al-Halabi expressed gratitude for the friendly Soviet Union's support for Syria's national and pan-Arab struggle against the continued aggression on the Arab people and for bringing about a just peace, adding that such peace will not be attained until Israel withdraws completely from all the occupied Arab territories and recognizes the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

Responding to the ambassador's spech, Comrade Kuznetsov conveyed greetings from Comrade Andropov, CPSU secretary general, and from the Soviet leadership to President Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general and president of the republic, and the Syrian leadership, wishing the Syrian people continued prosperity and progress.

He said the Soviet Union is very satisfied with the inalienable and principled relations between our countries and noted that these relations continue to develop according to the friendship and cooperation treaty signed between the two countries.

He said the Soviet Union highly assesses Syria's valiant and heroic stand, under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, in the face of imperialism and Zionism to defend the issue of peace in the Middle East. The Soviet Union, he added, appreciates Syria's firm confrontation of all separate deals and plots hatched against the Arabs.

The Soviet Union stands alongside Syria in deeds, not just in words, so that it can defend itself and the Arab people as well, particularly since Israel and its ally the United States are trying to impose their political, economic, and military hegemony on the peoples of the region.

Concluding, Kuznetsov stressed that Soviet-Syrian relations continue to grow in order to back the national forces front which is opposing aggression in the Middle East and the world, to bolster the role of the liberation movements in the world and their firm rejection of nuclear wars, and to bring about world disarmament and peace.

After the ceremony, Comrade Kuznetsov and Ambassador al-Halabi had a cordial conversation. Present at the ceremony were the first deputy of the USSR foreign ministry and the head of the international relations desk at the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Comrade al-Halabi reasserted the feelings of friendship, affection, and loyalty toward the Soviet people, and underlined the strong relations in various spheres between the two friendly countries whether on the political, military, economic, or cultural levels.

Comrade Kuznetsov voiced the Soviet leadership's satisfaction with the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries that will certainly serve the world peace.

AL-BA'TH ON U.S. ARMS TO ISRAEL, NEW AGGRESSION

JN240738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "With the Events" column, today's AL-BA'TH analyzes the so-called differences between the U.S. Administration and the Zionist enemy. It says: There have been no differences between Washington and Tel Aviv and there will never be any differences because their relationship is more than just a partnership. This has become quite clear through U.S. Middle East policy.

Nevertheless, some Arab regimes do not understand this clear-cut fact and still believe the United States is working in the interest of the Arabs and that it is always the only third side able to check Israel. They believe so despite the unlimited U.S. arms supplies to the Zionist entity, despite the U.S. leaders' statements, and despite the strategic alliance and military intervention alongside Israel when an aggression is launched against an Arab country.

The Pentagon intends to sell Israel 200 air-to-air missiles, in addition to the ceaseless flow of destructive weapons and F-15 and F-16 aircraft. All this aid is being extended to launch a new aggression that is being planned by the U.S. Administration and entrusted to Israel for implementation. The successive statements made by the Israeli leaders emphasize that the new aggression will be against Syria. Therefore, the Pentagon feels dutybound to extend further arms and to work with an active diplomacy for the sake of winning to the side of Israel several Arab regimes which could be employed against Syria in the same manner as U.S. weapons are employed.

Concluding, the paper says: We do not think that those Arabs who are running after the United States out of control are ignorant of the fact that Washington is concocting a major plot, specifically in Lebanon. This plot does not only aim at ending the Palestinian cause, but aims also at spreading full U.S. control over the Arab homeland.

PALESTINE BROADCAST ON ARAB ACTION TOWARD LEBANON

JN240920 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Palestine broadcast: "Abu Salim's Talk"]

[Text] We Palestinians -- the Palestinian revolution -- must generally review our relations with all our pan-Arab allies in the Arab arena and our allies in the international arena. Facts are becoming perfectly clear. The Arab sides, which in one way or another participated in the American-Zionist invasion of Lebanon, attributed their failure to take part in confronting the Americans and Zionists to the unilateral action taken by us, the Palestinians, and our pan-Arab allies in submitting the Palestinian and Arab objectives and drawing up the concepts and principles of work to liberate the land and implement the Arab will. They also accused us of obstruting the emergence of a collective Arab action. The position of these sides, who are making these justifications in order to expain their failure to assume their pan-Arab responsibility, has been well known for a long time. However, they exploited the results of the invasion of Lebanon and said: We want to develop Arab unanimity and propose to the people a clear Arab concept of Arab rights and the termination of the conflict in the region.

As we have seen, these sides reaffimed their concept of the objective and method of undertaking a real collective Arab action as represented in complete surrender to America and the Zionists. We have also seen these sides moving and working, ignorning everything they said. They are concentrating their efforts on implementing and applying the American schemes. Naturally, our failure to reorganize our relations with our pan-Arab and international allies is giving these sides a chance to reveal the true nature of their intentions and their concept of the collective Arab action as represented in a collective Arab capitulation to the American and Zionists.

The sensitive and serious circumstances no longer encourage or allow involving such people in new experiences in order to test their credibility and pan-Arab committment. Our reevaluation of matters and our reorganization of our affairs in an effective manner are the only methods that can straighten matters out and foil all the trends and movements stemming from the desire to expedite the exploitation of the results of the invasion of Lebanon in the interest of the Americans and Zionists. These methods also enable us to take the initiative and work on all areas for the sake of our interests and the interests of our struggle, cause, and revolution.

HURD: SYRIA, PLO PROMISE TO LEAVE LEBANON

TA231404 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1349 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Syria and the PLO have promised to pull their forces out of Lebanon. This was stated today by British Deputy Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. He was talking to Israeli correspondents, following his meeting at the end of last week with the Syrian foreign minister. Hurd added that King Husayn is eager to join the peace talks. This report has been relayed by our correspondent in London Yusi Melman.

HABIB MEETS WITH SHAMIR, ARENS IN JERUSALEM

TA231815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] U.S. envoy Philip Habib reported this evening to the defense and foreign ministers on his talks with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that it emerges from Philip Habib's report that the main problems are still the security zone in southern Lebanon and Major Haddad's status.

At the meeting, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir raised the matter of the Israeli prisoners being held in Syria by the PLO and Philip Habib replied that he was making attempts to clarify the situation of the prisoners in Syria. He had also asked the Lebanese to check on the problem of the Israeli prisoners with the PLO.

As for the question of whether Syria was prepared to withdraw from Lebanon, Philip Habib said that regular contacts were being held between Lebanon and Syria and it was the Lebanese impression that in principle the Syrians were prepared to withdraw on condition that this was done at the same time as a withdrawal of the IDF.

Haddad Status Discussed

TA241039 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Mar 83 pp 1, 15

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Israel has reached the limits of its concessions and flexibility in the negotiations with Lebanon, and will be firmly opposed to stationing Lebanese forces "not from the region" (namely, units suspected of cooperation with the PLO) in the security buffer zone in southern Lebanon. This firm Israeli position was voiced last night by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens in their talks with special U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib in Jerusalem.

Senior political sources close to the negotiations mention an exacerbation in the dispute between the parties over the question of Major Sa'd Haddad's status in the security buffer zone.

It has emerged that Prime Minister Menahem Begin instructed Ministers Shamir and Arens, and the negotiating team, not to make any concessions on the question of Haddad's status. In a meeting yesterday with New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, Prime Minister Begin said: Sa'd Haddad is an ally who proved himself, and Israel owes him a great deal and will not abandon him.

U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib announced in the meeting yesterday with Shamir and Arens -- which was also attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, Major General Avraham Tamir and other figures -- that Lebanon is absolutely opposed to the presence of Sa'd Haddad as the head of his militia in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli side made clear through its unequivocal reaction that it would not agree to leave Israel's security in the hands of "foreign forces from the north," clearly hinting at the Lebanese units which served in northern Lebanon which are suspected of maintaining relations with the PLO. It has been learned in Jerusalem that the Lebanese Government wants to send these units to the south as the force which would supervise the security arrangements.

Israel emphasized that in light of its high sensitivity on the security question, and its assessment that the Lebanese Army will need some time to unify, it insists on maintaining the presence of Haddad and his men in the area. The Israeli position contends that Haddad and his men have shown themselves as Lebanese patriots and as an effective force in the struggle against the terrorist organizations.

According to the senior Israeli sources, yesterday's talk with Envoy Habib was disappointing. In the meeting, the foreign minister made plain Israel's unequivocal position that it adheres to the principle of future relations between the two countries, and the passage of people and goods through an open border.

Ministers Arens and Shamir again asked Habib whether he had specific promises that the Syrians and PLO would get out of Lebanon if an agreement is reached with Israel. The U.S. ambassador replied that the Lebanese Government argues time and again that it has attained a promise that the Syrians and the terrorists would indeed evacuate Lebanon.

Lebanon Opposed to Haddad

TA231939 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] U.S. mediator Philip Habib held several meetings this evening with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens. The relations between the IDF and the Marines in Lebanon and ways to avert clashes between the two forces were discussed in the meeting with the defense minister. Philip Habib promised to relay the Israeli proposals on this issue to the Marine commanders in Lebanon.

After this meeting, Habib conferred at the Knesset building with an Israeli delegation headed by the foreign and defense ministers. Habib presented to them the latest proposals of the Lebanese president regarding the security arrangements and the question of Major Haddad's status. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen has learned that Lebanon is not willing to change its position and allow Haddad to be responsible for security in southern Lebanon. Lebanon is also unwilling to allow joint IDF-Lebanese Army patrols and does not agree to have IDF patrols setting out from and returning to Israel.

In contrast, Lebanon only agrees to set up a joint military committee to which Israel would be able to submit the security problems that might arise in southern Lebanon. Foreign Minister Shamir again asked Habib to seek information about the Israeli POW's and the missing soldiers held by Syria and the PLO. Habib reiterated that, to the best of his knowledge, the Syrians would be ready to evacuate Lebanon at the same time as Israel. Habib will return to Beirut on Friday.

LEBANON REPORTEDLY SETS 2-WEEK DEADLINE

TA240656 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Lebanese officials say their latest proposals in negotiations with Israel, conveyed by special envoy Philip Habib last night in Jerusalem, were the furthest it will go in the way of compromise.

Lebanese radio stations reported an unnamed senior Lebanese official as saying that if in 2 weeks an agreement is not reached between the two countries, then Lebanon will seek a change in the tripartite negotiations. He said he was speaking of additional diplomatic channels and not necessarily a replacement for Habib.

Our reporter says there was no major progress on security arrangements between Israel and Lebanon reported in last night's meeting between U.S. envoy Philip Habib and Israeli officials. One major sticking point is the continuing lack of agreement regarding a future role in southern Lebanon for militia leader Sa'd Haddad.

Habib met last night with Foreign Minister Shamir, Defense Minister Arens and Chief of Staff-designate General Moshe Levi. The U.S. envoy said he would do his best to take up the issue with Syria on Israeli prisoners of war.

More on Lebanese Deadline

TA240830 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Safiq al-Wazzan says that Lebanon is not ready to give in any more on the subject of the withdrawal of the foreign forces from its country. Lebanon, he said, demands a withdrawal agreement [heskem] within 2 weeks.

As reported this morning by the newspaper AN-NAHAR, Al-Wazzan notes that Lebanon gave as much as it could in the framework of preserving its sovereignty. If an agreement is not reached within 2 weeks, he said, Lebanon will act to find different ways for conducting the negotiations.

REAGAN ADMITS FAILURE ON POW CONTACTS WITH SYRIA

TA230953 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Mar 83 p 2

[Report by Gid'on Allon]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has informed President Yitzhaq that none of the contacts with the Syrian Administration over the fate of the IDF missing-in-action from the war in Lebanon has resulted in anything. In a letter he sent President Navon, Reagan detailed all the contacts that have been held between the U.S. Administration and the leaders in Damascus over the fate of the MIA's, but he said all these efforts have failed so far.

President Reagan promised that the United States would pursue its efforts to find out the whereabouts and condition of the IDF MIA's in Syria.

This HA'ARETZ correspondent points out that during their meeting at the White House, President Navon asked President Reagan to find out about the MIA's, about whom we have absolutely no information.

MINISTRY PLEASED WITH RENEWED U.S. ARMS SALES

TA231032 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The U.S. announcement on the renewal of Sidewinder missiles sales to Israel was accepted with satisfaction in the Defense Ministry this morning. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the Defense Ministry sees it as a first encouraging sign to the change in the U.S. Defense Department's attitude toward Israel.

U.S. SAID TRYING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS

TA240712 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Mar 83 pp 1,2

[Report from United States by Wolf Blitzer and defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is set on trying to improve U.S.-Israeli relations, according to a senior State Department official. The official predicted that there will probably be no more confrontations between Israeli and U.S. troops around Beirut of the sort that have recently exacerbated relations between the two countries.

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Lawrence Eagleburger said the U.S. and Israel are "working very hard to try to establish a situation in which they won't happen again." Eagleburger pointedly refused to pin the blame for the Beirut incidents on Israel. "I don't know who is at fault," he said, "and I don't really think that is relevant. They are not the sort of thing that should happen between two friends and allies -- as Israel and the U.S. are."

Observers also pointed to the Pentagon announcement on Tuesday of the sale of an additional 200 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles to Israel -- a deal valued at some $16 million. U.S. Defence Department officials said that is the first new military sale approved for Israel since the war in Lebanon. Arms that earlier had been approved and were "in the pipeline" were sent to Israel on schedule -- with the exception of the 75 F-16 fighter now held up for over one year.

The Sidewinder announcement came just 24 hours after Defence Minister Moshe Arens disclosed that Israel is going ahead with the full transfer to the U.S. of the intelligence and military information gained during the war in Lebanon.

These developments have come in the wake of what U.S. officials described as very good meetings here in Washington last week involving Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Secretary of State George Shultz on the Lebanese troop withdrawal negotiations.

Eagleburger, the number three man in the State Department, was interviewed in Washington by former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Dinitz, who hosts a weekly Jerusalem-based programme on American cable television network.

The State Department official noted that the Beirut troop incidents were as much concern to "our common friend Moshe Arens" as they have been to the administration. Eagleburger went on to insist that attitudes on both sides are getting better and that similar incidents will probably not occur again in the future.

In the taped television interview, Eagleburger firmly denied that the U.S. made Jordan's King Husayn any promises regarding the return of most of the West Bank and East Jerusalem in order to encourage him to enter the peace process.

"These are nonsense," he said, referring to those reports. "The president and the U.S. Government stand on the September 1 speech. That is our position. That's the position we have espoused since September 1. It is the situation that we continue to espouse. There is nothing beyond that."

POST defence correspondent Hirsh Goodman adds: A senior team of U.S. Air Force officers will arrive in Israel soon to receive information from the Israel Defence Forces on the war in Lebanon. They will meet with an Israeli team coordinated by Dr. Ben-Tziyon Naveh, head of research and development at the Defence Ministry.

Israeli defence officials said yesterday that they do not consider the American decision to expedite the sending to Israel of 200 air-to-air missiles a reciprocal gesture. They pointed out that the move does not constitute the lifting of an embargo on American weapons to Israel, but comes as a result of an administration decision to speed up the legislative process expediting the delivery of the 200 missiles over which there has been no controversy.

The Americans have still to lift the embargo on 75 F-16's to Israel, as well as on other items, mainly ordnance, imposed as a result of Israeli retaliatory strikes against the PLO in Lebanon. American interest in the war's results will initially focus on the Air Force, but will later move to other fields. The Americans are interested in both the performance of their own equipment, and that of the Russians.

MK RAZ TO TAKE HERZOG'S KNESSET SEAT

TA221536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Nahman Raz will join the Alignment faction in the Knesset as Hayim Herzog's replacement. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli notes that the new member of Knesset is a member of Kibbutz Geva', active in the United Kibbutz Movement and in the past was the secretary of the Ihud Haqevutzot Vehakibbutzim.

LABOR SEEN 'MORE DOVISH' AFTER HERZOG ELECTION

TA240716 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Mar 83 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Sarah Honig]

[Text] Tel Aviv -- One indirect result of Hayim Herzog's election as president will be a more dovish posture in the Alignment Knesset faction. Herzog's departure from the Knesset will result in the entry of one of the Labour Party's outstanding doves, Hayim Ramon, the Labour Young Guard secretary-general.

The man who immediately succeeded Herzog into the House yesterday was Nahman Raz, who already yesterday pledged his loyalty as the Knesset's newest Knesset member. But Raz was about to enter the Knesset soon anyway because of the appointment of MK Daniyel Rosolio as secretary-general of the Histadrut Holding Company, Hevrat 'Ovdim. Rosolio will soon resign from the Knesset and his seat would have automatically gone to Raz, the next in line on the Alignment list.

But now that another Labour Knesset seat falls vacant because of Herzog's election to the presidency, Rosolio would be followed by Ramon, who at 36 is described as a younger, possibly even more outspoken version of Yosef Sarid. Raz is now the second representative in Labour of the Ihud Haqevutzot Vehaqibutzim [Mapai-affiliated kibbutz movement] and is seen as a moderate middle-of-the-roader. Raz, 58, was born in 'En Harod and until now was in charge of the children's house at Geva'.

With Herzog's departure from the faction and the impending departure of Rosolio, Labour will lose two hawks from its Knesset faction. Moreover, there is still the question of MK Dov Ben-Me'ir, who more than three months ago was told to decide between his Knesset post and his job as secretary-general of the Tel Aviv Labour Council. He must make the choice because the party Central Committee forbade its members from representing Labour in more than one top job. Ben-Me'ir has yet to decide, but should he leave the Knesset, Labour will lose another hawk.

Meanwhile, things were apparently quiet yesterday on the Likud front, following the stinging defeat suffered by the coalition on Tuesday when it failed to get its own candidate, Justice Menahem Elon, elected president.

As a result of Prime Minister Menahem Begin's decision to let bygones be bygones and not engage in any efforts to discover the identity of the seven MK's who failed to support the coalition in Tuesday's secret ballot, the tempest in the coalition appeared to be abating.

But beneath the surface there were still rumblings, with party politicians spending a good deal of time speculating about who the "defectors" were. Coalition pundits predict that it will be a long time before the coalition can overcome the suspicion and mistrust that the defeat generated. Recriminations and factional vindictiveness can now be expected to abound.

Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich said yesterday, for example, that "from now on it will be clear to me that among all the people with whom I come in contact inside the coalition there are five brazen liars. I don't know who they are, so it will be very difficult to trust very many coalition members."

EIGHT NEW SETTLEMENTS TO BE 'CIVILIANIZED'

TA211759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Report by settlement affairs correspondent Shalom Oren]

[Text] The Cabinet decision to civilianize eight outposts will make it possible to prepare people for the new settlements as well as to plan the settlements and their financing. This is what a senior source on the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs says, adding that this decision is a long-term one. The Cabinet decision led to the transfer of the eight sites from the Defense Ministry's responsibility to that of the Zionist organization and the Agriculture Ministry. Talk apparently centers on the following points:

Converting the Berakha outpost on the Gerizim mountain into a civilian settlement; establishing Tel Hayyim, an urban settlement, near Rujayb, which is adjacent to Nabulus; establishing the Ma'ale Levona outpost and another near 'Ayn Qiniya; establishing a settlement at Ra's Kurkar, west of Bet Horon; establishing the Hermesh settlement west of Mevo Dotani and establishing an outpost east of Janin.

The timing of the decision has no connection to the feelers put out by King Husayn to join the peace process. The timing is accidental, sources close to the settlement issues say, and the proposal to set up new settlements has been on the agenda for many months and was postponed for technical reasons.

Members of Amana, the settlement movement of Gush Emunim, say that the decision has a political aspect and it is about time people believe that the present government intends to settle Eretz Yisra'el. The decision, Gush Emunim people say, was postponed for months due to the illness of the head of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, Minister Simha Ehrlich. There are 12 Gush Emunim settlement nuclei waiting to move onto the sites of the new settlements and if everything goes well, Uri Ari'el, the head of Amana says, the nuclei will settle the new sites this coming summer.

NEW SETTLEMENT TO BE INAUGURATED NEAR DEAD SEA

TA220625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The inauguration ceremony of the 'En Tamar settlement south of the Dead Sea will be held this afternoon. There are 22 families in the settlement and they will be employed in agriculture. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that another three settlements will soon be established in the region.

SETTLEMENTS 'UNRELATED' TO U.S. PEACE MOVES

TA211523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] A senior source in the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs has explained to our correspondent Razi Barqay that the timing of the decision to civilianize the eight Nahal outposts in Judaea and Samaria is completely coincidental and is unrelated to the efforts the Americans are making to get Jordan to join the peace process. The source said that the matter of civilianizing the settlements had been on the Cabinet's agenda for several months and had been postponed for various reasons.

Our correspondent notes that the Cabinet decision has brought angry reactions from the Alignment, and that many opposition members have issued statements saying that the Cabinet intends to thwart every effort to get King Husayn to join negotiations.

Also, the Peace Now movement has said that by its decision to set up new settlements in the territories, the Cabinet is playing with the feelings of the country's inhabitants, most of whom want King Husayn to join the peace process.

RABIN DISCUSSES SOVIET INTERVENTION, SYRIA

TA201116 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Mar 83 p 3

[Report by Moshe Maizels]

[Text] On Friday, 18 March, in a talk with the MA'ARIV editorial board, MK Yitzhaq Rabin said he regarded the political significance of the increasing Soviet involvement in Syria with greater concern than its military significance.

Mr Rabin claimed that the Israeli conception in the Lebanon war -- a blow at the PLO and Syria and loyalty to the Christian partner -- had been mistaken. "We did not strike the PLO and the Syrians hard enough," he said. "If there was a conception of reliance on one man, Bashir al-Jumayyil, this was mistaken and there was a delusion concerning the Russians. The Americans erred when they raised the Reagan plan right after the PLO departure from Beirut. They should first have neutralized the focal point that could lead to the conflagration of a renewed war in Lebanon and continued with a solution to the problem of Lebanon."

Mr Rabin pointed out that the depth of the Soviet commitment in Lebanon had increased with the positioning of the SAM-5's. "At present there is no solution to the problem of Lebanon without Syria, the decisions of Khaldah, Qiryat Shemona and Netanya are valueless as long as the Syrians have not agreed to an arrangement. The Russians are interested in delaying a solution in Lebanon in order to damage the resumption of the U.S. peace process and Jordan's incorporation in the negotiations. In the Lebanon war the government's conception failed. It wanted to obtain far-reaching political goals, but it seems that the political results of the war are the most minimal of all those achieved in all of Israel's wars," he said.

Mr Rabin said that the United States, Israel and Egypt would be unable to continue with the peace process without Jordan. "The Soviet interest is to stop the peace process by holding up the process of an arrangement in Lebanon. The link between an arrangement in Lebanon and Jordan joining the negotiations must be severed."

MK Rabin admitted that the Labor Party's territorial compromise program also had no Arab partner at present, but he claimed that the Likud's greater Eretz Yisra'el program had even less chance of finding an Arab partner.

"It is impossible to arrive at a peace arrangement all at once, especially after the Sinai precedent. There is no choice but a process of two stages, including autonomy. The Labor Party's program gives more entry to an interim stage in the peace negotiations," he said. [as published]

Rabin claimed that the Labor Party's argument with the Likud over Eretz Yisra'el was one of the image and future of the State of Israel. "I am against imposing Israeli sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria," he explained. "It is impossible to fulfill a Jewish destiny in greater Eretz Yisra'el. We would have to give the Arab inhabitants full citizenship and they would account for 40 percent of the Knesset."

The speaker pointed with concern to the employment infrastructure in Israel, with Arabs from the territories being employed in many fields. "Can a Jewish state with Arab manual workers and Jewish white-collar workers be conceivable?"

Speaking about Labor Party matters, Rabin claimed that the party had made a mistake when, after the inquiry commission's findings, it continued to focus its fight against Ari'el Sharon even after it was decided to transfer the defense portfolio to another man, and had not directed the fight against the government as a whole.

"This played into the government's hands. As soon as we went to a nonconfidence motion in the Knesset, talk began about the establishment of a national unity government. It turned out that the government emerged stronger from the inquriy commission's report and the oppostion was weakened."

In Rabin's view, hopes of a parliamentary change in the 10th Knesset or the desire for a national unity government cannot be the party's guiding line and it must prepare for elections in 1985. Nor should the party fear early elections and if the Likud suggests such elections, they should be supported.

The chance of founding a national unity government is less at present than it has ever been and the party needs patience. It must focus in the next 2 years and 6 months in content and attract back to it the workers and young people. More partnership in the Histadrut economy should be achieved. Even after 6 years of Likud rule, the public still regards the opposition as the establishment. The Labor movement is losing by internal tensions between sects and between the orthodox and the nonorthodox. Any antireligious phenomenon in the party should be opposed and leftist statements that do not express its central stream should be avoided," MK Yitzhag Rabin said.

MA'ARIV VIEWS SOVIETS, MISSILES ISSUE

IA201207 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Mar 83 p 5

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Russians and the Missiles"]

[Text] The Soviet Union's latest appeal to Israel was on the matter of the hits on the Soviet Embassy in Beirut. It was not handed over through the Americans, but through the accepted diplomatic channel, viz. the Finnish Embassy in Tel Aviv, which represents Soviet interests in Israel.

This letter did not have the sharp, insulting expressions of the two previous letters on this matter, because the Government of Israel had previously replied to the Soviets that it would not answer Soviet messages containing insulting expressions.

In any event, there has been no direct or indirect Soviet appeal through the United States containing a warning against an attack on the SAM-5's and SAM-10's [as published] positioned in Syria.

It is true that MK Tawfiq Tubi said at a Tel Aviv news conference that he had heard from authoritative people in the Kremlin that the Soviet Union would defend Syria in the event of Israel attacking the missiles in Syria, but this warning was fired into empty air since there was not, nor is there any Israeli intention of attacking the missiles in Syria. The U.S. Administration knows this very well and this has been explained very well by the new defense minister from the Knesset podium.

The publication of the Soviet warning fitted in well with the method Moscow used in all of Israel's wars. At the end of every war, when the Soviets are already sure that an arrangement is already being formulated with U.S. mediation, they jump on to the band-wagon of a warning to Israel at the last minute in order to have the achievement also attributed to them.

This occurred in the Sinai campaign, when the Soviet Union sent the messages of the missile threat if Israel did not retreat from Egyptian soil after Moscow had found out that Washington was already putting pressure on Israel for the same thing. They even knew how to spread rumors about Soviet planes approaching the Middle East.

This is also how it was in the 6-day war, when on the last day of the war and only on the last day, Moscow published its warning to Israel not to conquer Damascus. They even moved warships to the eastern Mediterranean.

This is how it was in the Yom Kippur war, when they panicked the Americans with Soviet paratroop divisions on alert for action in the Middle East, while publishing a warning to Israel.

In none of these cases did the Soviets rush to react at once at the outbreak of the crisis with these warnings, with which the Soviet Union tried to guarantee itself, post factum, the Arabs' sympathy, and primarily its political status in any possible arrangement.

In the Lebanon war, the Soviets did not make hard-hitting warnings as they did in the past. It was dusk in the Kremlin on the eve of the changing of the guard but there was another reason: The Soviets wanted to influence the European countries to oppose the positioning of U.S. missiles and, more than that, to help the laying of the trans-Siberian gas pipeline. A language of threats would have raised international tension and disturbed the Soviet efforts in Europe.

Therefore the Soviets preferred and prefer their work to be done by others, that Tawfiq Tubi should declare, that CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR should report, and that the Voice of Lebanon should broadcast. But this was done without a direct Soviet appeal, without a warning to the United States or Israel.

The Israeli public does not have to fall into the trap set for it by the Soviets by these leaks. A renewed tension in the affair of the missiles in Syria could serve the Soviet interests, it could weaken Israeli positions and, worse than anything else, it could influence public opinion in the United States that Washington should speak with Moscow on this matter.

And we are experienced in what talking under the shadow of missiles means. This is what happened at the end of the war of attrition in August 1970, and this is what happened in October 1973 at the end of the Yom Kippur war.

ARENS TO ESTABLISH IDF FIELD FORCES COMMAND

TA230913 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Mar 83 pp 1, 15

[Report by military correspondent Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] A field forces command will be set up in the IDF, which will combine and unite all the ground forces under one body. The establishment of that command will constitute a substantial change in the IDF's organizational setup, and will be carried out on the instruction of Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

Major General Visra'el Tal had at one time submitted a plan to set up a field forces command, but then-Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur, and later the current chief of staff, Refa'el Eytan, turned it down.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens has already informed Chief of staff-designate Major General Moshe Levi that on his instructions the new command should be established, resulting in an organizational change in the IDF. As has been learned, no further debates will be held by the general staff command on this matter. The defense minister's instruction will be carried out already in the next few weeks upon the entrance into office of the new chief of staff, at which point the initial steps toward reorganizing the army will be effected. At the first stage this will affect the commands of the various branches. Most of the IDF generals currently support the establishment of the new command. Among them are generals who had at one time objected to its establishment but now believe, in view of the war in Lebanon and the lessons drawn from it, that a field forces command should be established.

The command, which will combine all the ground forces, will result in greater integration and centralization, and will limit the number of existing commands, thus hopefully leading to the increased power of the IDF's field units.

PROPOSAL TO BUY MORE OIL FROM EGYPT REJECTED

TA240545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Israel rejected an Egyptian proposal to increase the quantity of oil it buys from Egypt, in return for a reduction in price. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik discovered that following the bitter experience Israel suffered involving oil exports from Iran, it was decided to buy oil from as many sources as possible and not to depend too much on any one source.

Yesterday in Jerusalem Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i met with the heads of the Egyptian oil system. The meeting was conducted in a good atmosphere. The Egyptian officials reacted by saying that their country will continue to supply oil to Israel according to the agreement signed by the two countries.

LIBYA

REPORTAGE ON GHANAIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT

20 March Arrival

LD210836 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Mar (JANA) -- A Ghanaian delegation comprised of Captain Kojo Tsikata, special adviser to the Provisional National Defense Council; Kwesi Botwe, secretary for finance and economic planning; Appiah Korang, secretary for fuel and power; and a number of officials from various ministries arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Capt Kojo made a statement to JANA in which he praised the bonds between the revolutions in the Jamahiriyah and Ghana and their confrontation with their mutual enemies -- colonialism and American imperialism.

Meeting With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD230951 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution last night received Captain Kojo Tsikata, Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] special adviser in the Republic of Ghana and personal envoy of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman ofthe PNDC. He delivered a written message to the brother leader from Chairman Jerry Rawlings.

The meeting was attended by Dr Kwesi Botwe, secretary for finance and economic planning. In his message to the brother leader of the revolution, the PNDC chairman affirmed the solidarity of the Ghanaian revolution with the Libyan Arab people in their gallant opposition to U.S. terrorist provocations, which unmasked the hostile American line against peoples struggling for freedom.

Session With Jabir

LD231331 Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 9, Mar 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, yesterday received Captain Kojo Tsikata, special adviser of the Provisional National Council of Ghana and the delegation accompanying him which is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

Joint Committee Meeting

LD231220 Tripoli JANA in English 0922 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 9, Mar 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The Libyan-Ghanaian joint committee held a meeting here yesterday.

Present were the secretaries of the General People's Committee for Justice, Treasury, Oil and the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Ghana as well as a number of experts and technicians.

On the Ghanaian side there were Captain Kojo Tsikata, the special adviser of the Defence Council, Dr Kwesi Botwe, secretary of finance and economic planning and Mr Appiah Korang, secretary of fuel and power, and several technicians and advisers.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES CABLE FROM ETHIOPIAN LEADER

LD231001 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received a cable from Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, president of socialist Ethiopia, in which he affirmed the stand of the Ethiopian people with the Libyan Arab people in their gallant opposition to U.S. imperialist conspiracies and provocations and the open, hostile U.S. line against the freedom and sovereignty of the Libyan Arab people.

In his message, the Ethiopian chairman denounced the arrogant and hegemonistic acts practiced by U.S. imperialism, leader of international terrorism and enemy of peoples fighting for freedom everywhere.

COMMENTARY URGES SOLDIERS' REVOLUTION IN SUDAN

LD191020 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] It is impossible for the structure of this decadent regime to change by traditional and democratic means. The will to change lies in the energy of military force as created by the revolution of the soldiers, a revolution that can become the key to the popular revolution which enables the masses to seize power, wealth, and arms and to build the free state of the masses over the land of fraternal Sudan.

The spirit of the revolution is alive and alert and is proudly and honorably in the hearts of the patriotic Sudanese officers and men. It is reflected in the political leaflets which inundate the military barracks inside Sudan and which express (?the great anger) against U.S. provocations and the terrorization of the Jamahiriyah. [passage indistinct]

All the ingredients of the revolution and the chances for its success are complete in Sudan. The spark of the revolution is breaking out in Sudanese military circles. The Sudanese masses have run up a big balance to their militant credit, and their popular uprisings so far amount to over 20. These are living expressions providing absolute proof to the world that Numayri is rejected by the Sudanese masses and that his fate, as a result of this will be in the dustbin of history without fail. These Sudanese masses daily are racing one another to enlist in the ranks of the revolutionary forces because they want to participate in bringing about the dawn of freedom, unity, and the building of the state of the masses in Sudan.

We are fully confident that the success of the Sudanese people's revolution is inevitable because this revolution is proceeding in the right direction toward victory, both from the point of view of organization, the support it derives from the masses and its ideological content, and with respect to its extension and its growing universality equally in military and popular circles. If the sense of revolution begins to flow in their veins and throb forcefully in their hearts, the revolution will drown anyone who opposes it even if this opposition is rabid U.S. imperialism and reaction.

The lessons of history and the experiences of peoples have confirmed beyond any shadow of a doubt that America cannot confront the revolution of the peoples and that it quickly abandons its pawns and puppets at the crucial moment.

Therefore, Numayri is totally mistaken if he believes the American wall on which he relies and which feeds his veins with the water of life will protect him against the wrath of the masses. The wall is fragile and weak and will soon become a rubble heap with the eruption of the volcano of popular revolution in Sudan in exactly the same way as the American walls that used to back its agents and pawns in the Jamahiriyah, Iran, Vietnam, Nicaragua, and other places have collapsed.

And what about the forces of the Egyptian regime. These forces had to face the hostility of the Egyptian and Sudanese masses and protect Numayri against the wrath of the Sudanese masses.

The force of the revolution in Sudan knows full well who are its enemies and who are its real friends. The real friend of the Sudanese people is the one who stands on their side against Numayri in these hard times and not those who stand alongside Numayri against the Sudanese people or who urge them to sign the bill selling Sudan to U.S. imperialism. In practice, Sudan has become a real U.S. colony and everything in Sudan is at the disposal of the United States; so much so that today the Sudanese people are tasting the bitterness of starvation, thirst, and deprivation despite the fact that Sudan is in the valley of the great Nile and the granery of the world.

The fraternal Sudanese people know how to punish their enemies. The Sudanese people will try all those who blackened the pages of Sudanese history and tarnished Sudan's dignity, national pride, and sovereignty, and those who inflicted on them starvation, thirst, and deprivation. The tragic state of collapse with all its political, economic, and social aspects in Sudan is what will fan the fire of revolution in the hearts of the unionist and free revolutionaries inside the Sudanese Armed Forces. This situation, the inevitability of the outbreak of the revolution by the soldiers, is a key to detonating the volcano of popular revolution of the Sudanese masses who will be able to seize their natural right to power, wealth, and arms.

A thousand greetings to the revolutionary force inside the Sudanese Armed Forces, to the masses, and all popular sections. Here is a pledge from the Libyan Arab people, the makers of the first Jamahiriyah in history: They will always stand on the side of the fraternal Sudanese people and their growing revolution, even if the Libyan people are compelled to fight the rest of the world, because strengthening the cause of the revolution and championing the cause of freedom are sacred things that can never be squandered. It is a continuous popular revolution until the power of popular masses triumphs and socialist and unionist society is established in Sudan.

MOROCCO

MONARCH RECEIVES ALGERIAN OFFICIAL LARBI BELKHEIR

LD212358 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II today at the royal palace in Fes received Mr Larbi Belkheir, secretary general of the presidency of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. Mr Belkheir briefed His Majesty King Hassan II on the results of the official visit paid recently by His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid to Tunisia. Mr Belkheir also informed his majesty about the contents of the talks between the Tunisian and Algerian heads of state during this visit. Mr Belkheir's visit comes within the policy of consultations decided upon by His Majesty King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid during their encounter at the Algerian-Moroccan border on 26 February 1983. The meeting was attended by Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Mr Ahmed Ridha Guedira, adviser to his majesty the king.

TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE

LD230956 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi arrived in Morocco this evening with a message from His Excellency Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba to His Majesty King Hassan II. In a statement to the radio correspondent in Fes he said: I am happy to visit Morocco, and Fes in particular, with a message from the great struggler His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba to His Majesty King Hassan II, king of the sister Kingdom of Morocco. It is known to all that His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria honored Tunisia with an official visit recently and had concentrated and deep talks with His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba. Several agreements were signed and have been published in the press. His excellency the great struggler asked me to inform His Majesty King Hassan II of the contents of these talks and the opportunities they provide at the level of the region and of the great Arab Maghreb.

SUDAN

PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS MOVED TO NEW CAMPS

JN221446 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Shandi, the middle region, 22 Mar (SUNA) -- The evacuation of the Palestinian fighters from Shandi to their new camp in the area of Erkowit in the eastern region has started recently. Two groups of fighters have been evacuated so far. The rest of them will be evacuated by the end of March. Preparations in the new camp in Erkowit have been completed. Prefabricated houses have been set up and water wells have been drilled. The [fighters] families' camp will be in Sinkat.

DETAILS OF LIBYA'S PLOTS AGAINST GOVERNMENT REPORTED

JN231808 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Mar (SUNA) -- SUNA has obtained accurate information from well-informed sources in Tripoli about the ideological organization formed by Libya's Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to implement his criminal plots against Sudan. It was learned that Al-Qadhdhafi had appointed 'Abdallah Zakariya, a Sudanese national who had fallen into Al-Qadhdhafi's dragnets, as a leader of the so-called Sudanese Socialist Popular Front [SSPF] [al-Jabhah ash-Sha'biyah al-Ishtirakiyah as-Sudaniyah] which is based on Al-Qadhdhafi's third universal theory and which was formed in 1980. This front later became Al-Qadhdhafi's favorite organization. Other fronts which included the remnants of those who fled Sudan became the basis of the SSPF. Al-Qadhdhafi hoped that this organization would take over power in Sudan after a number of assassinations and explosions were carried out in the country. This organization would then liquidate all the fronts which would help it take over power in Sudan.

The information obtained by SUNA reveals that the SSPF took the Frolinat offices in Al-Wafa building, Abu Hurayda street, as its headquarters which include a political bureau, an operations room, an office of liaison with the Libyan revolutionary committees, and another office for liberation movements. The members of this front include naive persons and outlaws from Sudan. They are recruited inside and outside Libya by temptation, intimidation, and coercion exploiting the hard circumstances of their lives in Libya.

The SSPF has three major recruiting centers from which many other centers can be established.

The first center is in Tripoli, the second is in Al-Kufrah on the Sudanese-Libyan border, and the third in Damascus, Syria. The Damascus center operates in coordination with the people's office, which means the Libyan Embassy in Damascus, where weak Sudanese elements such as students from East and West European universities who face hard lives are recruited.

The SSPF has two big camps for military and ideological training, the first is in the (Amzadah) camp in the (Mzyati) area near Tripoli. This camp is for elements which come from outside Tripoli, particularly from the Damascus recruiting office, and for those who are recruited in Tripoli and its surrounding areas. The second camp is called the Green Hope and is in Al-Kufrah. It currently contains 1,925 recruits. These naive recruits enter Libya from the Sudanese border areas of (Malit) and Al-'Uwaynat and are subsequently arrested by the Libyan authorities.

The Libyan authorities arrested thousands of Sudanese nationals in Libya to implement the 18 February plot and forced them to receive training with the help of the SSPF members. An eyewitness who managed to escape from the Green Hope camp has told SUNA that those who attempted to escape were liquidated in the desert surrounding the camp and were buried there. He said that he managed to escape when nine sick people were transferred from the camp to a hospital. The sick mutinied, attempted to escape, and were killed. And he was able to escape under the cover of darkness.

On the nature and intentions of the SSPF, SUNA recalls the discussion which took place last September between SSPF leader 'Abdallah Zakariya and members of the Green Hope camp in Al-Kufrah. Zakariya spoke about the differences among the inmates of the camp as a result of the psychological and political warfare launched against the front from various sides. Zakariyah said that military action was of primary importance to (?Libya) and that the front's program should be devoted to military action. He said that the greatest number of Sudanese nationals should be massed in the camp because that was the main aim in the forthcoming stage as he put it.

Zakariya said that Libya was a strategic ally of the front but it could not help the front economically or in the field of information. Libya, he said, could offer only military assistance. The front could open camps in all parts of the world except in Libya. He said that the front had no choice but to utilize this assistance in order to be transformed gradually into a full-fledged military organization because it is the only candidate for the leadership of the Sudanese armed socialist revolution.

Zakariya also said that Sudanese elements had to be recruited from the working class and the populated areas. He said: Libya has not treated any front like it does the SSPF, not even the PLO. Libya treats the SSPF member as Libyan soldiers. This may provoke anger against Libya from other fronts. Therefore, the Libyan Government should know everything about the front.

Zakariya also said that Al-Qadhdhafi would be visiting the camp and that the greatest number of Sudanese nationals should be collected there to be seen by Al-Qadhdhafi so that he might increase allocations for the camp. He added that 4,000 Sudanese would be collected in the camp when Al-Qahddhafi arrived. He said that the front suffered financial difficulties but Al-Qahddhafi promised to announce a new budget for the camp during his visit. Zakariya said that the most important thing was the implementation of the military program.

In the same meeting, Zakariya announced that the front planned to occupy Darfur by military force and to proceed from there through guerrilla warfare to occupy the rest of Sudan.

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH LIBYAN OFFICIALS

Foreign Liaison Secretary

LD220746 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali met at Government House yesterday evening with 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the Libyan Jamahiriyah's Foreign Liaison secretary, who said that the prime minister asked him to deliver a message to Colonal al-Qadhdhafi affirming Tunisia's desire to give a further impetus to cooperation between the two countries and to complete programs agreed upon between them during the visit the Libyan leader paid to Tunisia last year.

Al-'Ubaydi said that Libya is looking forward to intensive meetings with officials in Tunisia. He pointed out that these meetings will be crowned with the meeting of the higher joint committee in Tripoli to be held in the next few weeks.

Receives Al-Mabruk

LD232151 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] This morning Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali received in audience at Government House Mr Muhammad Abdullah al-Mabruk, secretary of public service in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In a statement to TAP, Al-Mabruk said that the talk took place in an atmosphere of fraternity and mutual understanding; it evaluated the achievements to date in bilateral cooperation and dealt with the steps to be taken so as to consolidate this cooperation in the interest of both countries.

The Libyan minister added that the talk also covered cooperation in the fields of education, vocational training, and labor. This issue will be put before the Tunisian-Libyan mixed commission at its coming meeting in Tripoli. 'Abdallah al-Mabruk explained that Mohamed Mzali gave valuable directives so as to lend more impetus to Tunisian-Libyan cooperation so as to realize integration between the two countries in various fields, observing that this cooperation is doing well and that it is getting better every year.

At noon today the minister of civil service and administrative reform, Mr el-Mezri Chekir also had talks with Mr al-Mabruk. They discussed the two countries' experiences in administration and the challenges facing them with regard to participation in the comprehensive development process. Both sides expressed readiness to increase contacts and cooperation between them in the administrative field. Social Affairs Minister Mohamed Naceur and Tunisian High Commissioner to Tripoli Mohamed Jenifane were present.

ETHIOPIA

COPWE DELEGATION RETURNS HOME FROM USSR

EA231127 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The high-level COPWE [Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia] Central Committee delegation led by Comrade Berhanu (Baye), PMAC [Provisional Military Administrative Council] Standing Committee and COPWE Executive Committee member, has returned to Addis Ababa after a 10-day visit to the USSR within the framework of the friendship and cooperation agreement signed last October between COPWE and the CPSU. During the visit the two sides exchanged party experiences.

Comrade Berhanu said in a statement on his arrival at the Bole International Airport that the delegation's visit constituted the first step toward implementing the agreements signed by COPWE and the CPSU and that the results of the visit would be useful and fruitful. Comrade Berhanu also stressed that the visit, which was aimed at exchanging experiences, would serve to strengthen the growing friendly relations between the two political organizations.

KENYA

TREASON TRIAL TERMINATED; THREE DISCHARGED

EA231529 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Three people charged with treason and misprision of treason arising from the disturbances in the country of last August were today discharged by the chief justice, Mr Justice Simpson, in the high court sitting in Nairobi. The three are (Raila Amolo Ordinga), (Otieno Makonyango), and (Alfred Vincet Otieno). The three people were discharged this morning after the attorney general, Mr Justice Muli, entered a nolle prosequi, thereby terminating the case.

OFFICIAL ON MEASURES AGAINST TRIBAL CLASHES

EA231909 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The northeastern provincial commissioner, Mr Benson Kaaria, has said that the government would confiscate and auction 200 head of cattle from any group of people that will start a tribal clash in the area. Addressing barazas [open air meetings] at Rhamu divisional center and Mandera town, Mr Kaaria said that the government is committed to end wanton destruction of human lives and property caused by a few irresponsible persons.

Mr Kaaria warned some tribes in the area whome he blamed for the frequent clashes that occur in there, saying they should be able to solve their differences amicably. He said wananchi should devote most of their time to development activities instead of fighting among themselves. We went on to say that confiscated cattle will be auctioned and the money will be used on development projects.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SOVIET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EA231017 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] H.E. President Daniel arap Moi today at State House Nairobi received and held discussions with the Russian trade delegation currently on a visit to Kenya.

The delegation, which called on the president jointly with the members of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was accompanied by the minister for commerce, Mr John Okwanyo.

The three-man Soviet trade mission is led by first deputy chairman of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Pletnev. Also present were the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Mr Kipsanai, and the Russian ambassador to Kenya, Dr Boris Miroshnichenko.

Meanwhile, the Kenyan and Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry today signed a bilateral trade agreement to further trade and economic relations between the two countries. The letters of the agreement were signed simultaneously at a ceremony in Nairobi today by the chairman of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Francis Macharia, and his Soviet Union counterpart, Mr Pletnev.

Mr Macharia explained that dialogue between the two chambers of commerce started in 1981 when a Kenyan trade mission visited the Soviet Union and identified areas of cooperation.

Responding, Mr Pletnev said his country had signed agreements with 39 African countries, adding that the agreements signed today between the two chambers would give added scope for Kenyan Soviet trade contacts.

The Russian ambassador to Kenya, Dr Boris Miroshnichenko, witnessed the signing of the agreements.

SEYCHELLES

MERCENARIES' FATE LINKED TO CLEMENCY APPEAL TO RSA

AB221226 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Victoria, March 22 (AFP) -- An urgent appeal for clemency to six African National Congress members made by President Albert Rene yesterday to South Africa Premier Piet Botha was linked here today to the fate of the four mercenaries awaiting death sentences in Seychelles. Education and Information Minister James Michel this afternoon described President Rene's appeal as 'last minute'.

President Rene said in his appeal that it was his sincere hope for the death sentences on the six ANC members, condemned for alleged terrorism, would not be carried out, on humanitarian grounds. "And I wish to impolore you and your government to exercise your prerogative of mercy in their favour," Mr Rene said in the message to Mr Botha. The message also referred to a similar appeal to the Seychelles president made last April to save the lives of three other ANC members. Commenting on yesterday's appeal, Mr Michel noted that the United Nations and several other countries and organizations had already called on Pretoria to commute the death sentences with no response from the South African Government.

The six ANX members condemned to death in South Africa are Simon Moguerane, Jerry Mosololi, Marcus Motaung, Anthony Tdotsobe, Johannes Shabangu, and David Moise.

In Seychelles the four mercenaries awaiting the death sentences imposed since the coup attempt against the government 16 months ago -- Zimbabweans Frank Brooks and Roger England, South African Jeremiah Puren and Briton Bernard Carey -- asked President Rene last year to commute their death sentences. Official sources said President Rene was leaning towards clemency for the mercenaries but the decision could rest on Pretoria's reaction to his appeal for clemency to the ANC members.

The mercenaries here, together with two others on lesser sentences, South Africans Martin Dolinchek and Robert Sims, are being kept on an island prison not far from Mahe with the rest of the local prison population. Prison officials say the men receive regular visits from British diplomats here and are allowed mail and reading material.

SOMALIA

RADIO HALGAN: GOVERNMENT TROOPS KILLED TOTAL 127

EA231123 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] A report on the latest battle between the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS [Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia] wing of the Somali opposition forces and troops loyal to Siad confirms that the death toll suffered by the Siad forces has now reached 127, with 90 wounded. The report adds that in the battles in progress in the villages of (Dabat) and (Kalindof) in Mudugh and Ghel Ghudud regions, enemy forces have lost large quantities of arms and ammunition. Various kinds of equipment have also been captured from the enemy or destroyed, including medicines. Fighting is now spreading in the Ghel Ghudud and Mudugh regions, where the liberation forces are in hot pursuit of the remnants of the Siad forces.

Losses suffered by the DFSS are as follows: two soldiers killed in action and a tank destroyed. Several men have been wounded.

Reports from the battlefield confirm that the armed force made up of members of the public and commanded by Ugas Mahmud Ugas Warsama Ugas Hasan, which is estimated to be several thousand strong, has recently joined the armed struggle against the Siad Barre dictator regime.

Government Troop Defections

EA232201 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Our reporter in the battle zone says that many soldiers who were loyal to Barre's regime have recently defected to the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces. Our reporter accompanying the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces says that the soldiers who defected are now fully participating in the fighting between the gallant DFSS forces and the dispirited forces loyal to Mohamad Siad Barre in the Ghel Gudut and Mudugh regions.

UNREST FOLLOWING QAT BAN REPORTED 23 MAR

EA232104 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] A press release by the Somali Nationalist Movement [SNM] wing of the Somali opposition forces say that more than eight people have died in Hargeisa, the regional capital of northwest region, as a result of confrontation between forces loyal to the dictatorial regime of Barre and members of the general public following the terror regime's ban on the cultivation, importation, and sale of qat.

The press release by the SNM wing says that the confrontations flared up after the oppressive organs of Barre's regime, including the police, the Army, and other forces were given orders to open fire on vehicles, camels, and other means of transport suspected of ferrying qat into the country.

The report adds that the confrontations intensified when Barre's forces started house-to-house searches in Hargeisa. Using the pretext of searching for weapons and qat in houses in the town, the forces started stealing any valuables they came across in the houses.

The press release from the SNM wing of the Somali opposition forces confirms that many people have been arrested in Hargeisa and many others have been molested in their houses while their wives and children watched helplessly. The report adds that one student lost both legs in the shooting directed at the people by Siad's oppressive forces. The report adds that the confrontations currently taking place in Hargeisa, in which six soldiers and two civilians have been killed, have also left many others wounded.

The press release adds that three vehicles, including the vehicle of the governor of Hargeisa for Barre's regime, were burned out. The press release from the SNM wing of the Somali opposition forces adds that a night curfew has been imposed in the town of Hargeisa and only soldiers in armored vehicles are permitted to move about at night.

The press release by the SNM wing has been confirmed by Colonel Adan (Damaa), who defected to the SNM wing of the Somali opposition forces with 15 soldiers who were formerly members of Barre's forces.

TANZANIA

SFRY ENVOY GIVES SUPPLIES TO ANC, PAC, SWAPO

EA231933 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam -- Yugoslavia has pledged that it will continue to support the frontline in the liberation of southern Africa. SFRY Ambassador Ivan Ivekovic gave the pledge in Dar es Salaam today on behalf of his government while handing over food and clothing to three liberation movements in southern Africa -- the ANC, the Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] of South Africa, and the Namibia liberation movement, SWAPO.

The ambassador said he believes the aid will help intensify the liberation struggle in the region. On Namibia's independence, the ambassador said Yugoslavia supports Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council as the only way to bring about genuine independence for the people of Namibia.

Speaking after Ndugo Iekovic handed over the aid to the liberation movements, Brigadier Hashim Mbita, executive secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee, praised Yugoslavia for its efforts to promote independence and peace not only in Africa but in the whole world. Brig Mbita said various types of humanitarian aid given by Yugoslavia had made the attainment of independence of several countries on the African Continent more possible, including Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola, and Guinea-Bissau. He said Yugoslavia was among the founding countries of the Nonaligned Movement which was formed in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1961.

GUINEA-MALI JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED 19 MAR

AB201907 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0915 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Joint Guinea-Mali communique issued on 19 March in Conakry at end of Malian President Moussa Traore's visit]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency President Ahmed Sekou Toure, secretary general of the Guinean Democratic Party [PDG], the state party, and the supreme leader of the revolution, His Excellency General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the UDPM and president of the Repbulic of Mali, accompanied by a high-level Malian delegation, made an official, friendly, and working visit to the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea from 17 to 19 March. During this visit, Gen Moussa Traore and his delegation were given a warm and brotherly welcome by the militant people of Conakry and the federations of Lobe and Farana, who showed their attachment to the popular ties of friendship and cooperation linking the Malian and Guinean people. President Moussa Traore's working visit with the high-level Malian Government delegation was to discuss the issue of integration initiated by the peoples' parties of the two countries, the UDPM and the PDG, the Guinean state party, on 13 March.

The following officials participated in the discussions: On the Malian side: Djibril Diallo, political secretary of the UDPM; (Bai Abu Ahmed), assistant secretary of the UDPM's Central Executive Bureau; (Mouhamedune Al Amani), foreign relations secretary of the UDPM's Central Executive Bureau; Oumar Coulibaly, economic and social affairs secretary of the UDPM's Central Executive Bureau; and minister of state for economy and planning; General (Phillipe Cissoko); general treasurer of the UDPM's Central Executive Bureau and principal private secretary to the president; (Traore Bolizogola), information and cultural secretary of the UDPM's Central Executive Bureau; Mrs (Sow Rositou Sow), member of the UDPM's Central Executive Bureau and president of the National Union of Malian Women; (Amadou Daouda Diallo), member of the UDPM's Central Executive Bureau and secretary general of the National Union of Malian Youth; Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; Mamadou Haidara, minister of transport and public works; Lieutenant Colonel Abdrhamane Maiga, minister of interior; Lieutenant Colonel Issa Kongoiba, minister of justice and keeper of the seals; His Excellency Djibril Demb Diallo, Malian ambassador to Guinea; and (Bakary Kalambo), secretary general of the National Union of Malian Workers.

On the Guinean side: Dr Lansana Beavogui, member of the National Political Bureau and prime minister in charge of planning and statics [title as heard]; (Lanosan Camara), member of the National Political Bureau and president of the People's National Assembly; Moussa Diakite, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of housing, state lands and urban affairs; Ismael Toure, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of mines and geology; General Lansane Diane, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of the people's army; N'famata Keita, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of energy [word indistinct]; Mamady Keita, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of higher education and scientfic research; Dr Abdoulaye Toure, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; Sekou Cherif, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of interior and security; Mrs Jeanne Martin-Cisse, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of social affairs; Mouctar Diallo, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of mid-level technical education and professional training; Senainon Behanzin, secretary of the Political Bureau and minister of agro-pastoral farms and agricultural cooperatives; Dr Sikhe Camara, member of the Central Committee and minister of justice; and Sekou Kaba, member of the Central Committee and general commissioner for information.

During the talks, which were carried out in an atmosphere of friendship and complete candor, the two heads of state observed that there was a major identity of views on all the questions that were discussed. Concerning bilateral relations, the two heads of state, the secretary general of the UDPM and the secretary general of the PDG, the Guinean state party, praised the good work carried out by the Malian and Guinean Joint Preparatory Commission established during the historical meeting of 13 March 1982 in Bamako.

In this regard, the two heads of state emphasized their appreciation of the progress and cooperation which has been made in a broad range of areas, including all sectors of the two countries, which is oriented toward a methodical process of integrating the two countries. They said it is necessary to maintain the schedule of meetings of the Mali-Guinea Joint Preparatory Commission. To this effect, they decided to create a permanent secretariat to further ensure the implementation of decisions.

The two heads of state are strongly convinced that the establishment of important political and economic bodies in the subregion will increase the efficiency of the countries concerned in the search for progress. That is why the two heads of state strongly expressed the hope that the gradual integration process between Guinea and Mali will begin the creation of larger movements open to all countries of the subregion without exception. After surveying the situation in west Africa, the two heads of state reaffirmed their total belief in the ECOWAS and reiterated that they are ready to work for the consolidation of this community. On the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state reiterated their total support for the heroic struggle being carried out by Namibian people led by SWAPO -- their sole representative -- for the independence of Namibia from the racist Pretoria regime. They condemned all the expansionist maneuvers aimed at blocking a solution to the Namibian problem and Namibia's attainmentof international sovereignty in accordance with Resolution 435 of the United Nations Security Council. In addition, the two heads of state condemned the apartheid system and the genocide practiced daily by the racist South African Government against the liberation movements and all the progressive forces in that country. They expressed satisfaction with the intensification of the liberation sturggle in southern Africa and the victories won by the Namibian and South African peoples. The two presidents strongly condemned the repeated acts of aggression committed by the apartheid regime against the neighboring independent states, to whom they pledge their total solidarity.

On current events in Africa, the two heads of state pledge to use their joint efforts to contribute effectively to finding a solution to the OAU crisis -- the body which is indispensable for the solidarity, stability, and the aspirations for unity of the African peoples.

Concerning the Middle East, the two presidents reiterate their continued support for the struggle of the Palestinian people (?led) by the PLO, and express satisfaction over the positive results of the 16th PNC summit.

Concerning international issues, they say that the conclusions of the Seventh Non-aligned Summit were very positive, primarily regarding the cohesion and unity of this movement, the call for an immediate end to the nuclear arms race, the (?call) for increased and more effective cooperation between the developing countries, and the establishment of a just, world economic order.

At the end of the talks, the two heads of state expressed satisfaction with the positive results of President Moussa Traore's official working visit following the (?informal) visit carried out by President Ahmed Sekou Toure in March 1982 to Bamako. These visits reinforce the foundations of the future Guinea-Mali entity that is desired by the peoples of the two countries. President Moussa Traore, on behalf of his delegation and on his own behalf, expressed his sincere thanks for the warm and brotherly welcome he received during his stay in the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

President Moussa Traore invited President Ahmed Sekou Toure to make an official, friendly, and working visit to the Republic of Mali. President Ahmed Sekou Toure accepted this friendly invitation with pleasure, the date of which will be agreed upon by the two parties.

Issued in Conakry, 19 March 1983. [Signed] Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Malian People's Democratic Union and president of the Republic of Mali;

Ahmed Sekou Toure, secretary general of the Guinean Democratic Party and president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea

GHANA

SECRETARY OF STATE RETIRED; SECRETARIES SUMMONED

AB230625 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The office of the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has announced the immediate retirement of Kofi Ashiboi Mensah as secretary of state. All state secretaries in charge of ministries are requested to meet in the office of the coordinating secretary of the castle at 1000 today.

Workers Criticize Retirement

AB231848 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Workers of Tema have criticized the manner in which the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] secretary of trade, Mr Koffi Ashiboi Mensah, has been retired. In a resolution passed today after a meeting at Tema, the workers said that the government should have given its reasons for the retirement, which they described as premature. The resolution, which has been sent to the chairman of the PNDC with copies to the press, described Mr Ashiboi Mensah as a very committed and dedicated secretary, one of the true secretaries dedicated to the making of the real people's revolution. The workers said they are aware that by assiduously sustaining the people's shops idea and direct allocations to workers, Mr Ashiboi Mensah is likely to step on the toes of some big men with connections. The resolution was signed by Mr (Anoch Akure), secretary of the Interim Coordinating Committee of Tema Workers Defense Committee.

ENVOY TO U.S. ON RELATIONS; REAGAN CITED

AB221859 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Ghana's ambassador to the United States, Mr Eric Otoo, has said that even though Ghana appreciated the valuable food assistance from the United States, she is determined to redouble efforts to be self-reliant in food production. The government is also determined to raise the living conditions of the people.

Mr (Otu) was presenting his credentials to President Reagan. Mr Otoo recalled that since independence, Ghana has enjoyed good relations with the United States and noted that the respect and understanding which the two countries have for each other's views and policies have facilitated cooperation between them. On the African scene, Mr Otoo hoped President Reagan will show magnanimity in the negotiations for the independence of Namibia.

Replying, the American leader hoped the two countries will maintain an atmosphere of mutual trust which is fundamental to the continuation of effective cooperation. He assured the new ambassador of his administration's determination to pursue the goal of internationally recognized independence settlement for Namibia and to work for the security and justice in southern Africa.

LIBERIA

DOE DISBANDS ENERGY BOARDS, TAKES CONTROL

AB222025 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The boards of directors of the Liberian Petroleum Refining Corporation [LPRC] and the Liberian Electricity Corporation [LEC] have been dissolved by head of state CIC [Commander in Chief] Dr Samuel Doe. The Liberian leader made the decision today in continuation of his determination to bring a permanent solution to the gasoline crisis that has affected the nation for several weeks. He said that both of these two important corporations have failed to exercise sufficient supervision and control in finding solutions to problems faced by these two establishments. Charging the boards with general incompetence and disinterest in the affairs of the corporation, Dr Doe said he will make all of the major decisions affecting LEC and LPRC until he can appoint new boards, according to an Executive Mansion press release.

Reflecting on the situation facing the nation during his absence from the country, Dr Doe said he was dismayed that those responsible for the running of government in these corporations allowed conditions to deteriorate to a crisis state. Noting that at the time of his departure for New Delhi he did not know of the impending shortage, Commander in Chief Doe blamed the situation on elements in society who would like to see the failure of the PRC [People's Redemption Council] government. Emphasizing the political aspect of the gasoline crisis, Dr Doe again attributed the present difficulties to enemies of the revolution who are seeking to sabotage efforts by the PRC to move the nation ahead. Dr Doe stated, however, that nothing will interrupt his commitment and undying determination to work in concert with the council to achieve its formal goal of nation building. Reiterating his belief that the progress and development of the nation depends on all of those in leadership positions, Dr Doe stressed that potential politicians should remove their thoughts from 1985 and become active participants in national reconstruction. He said all of us should realize that the successful transition to civilian government depends on the contribution we can all make now towards the goal.

The head of state further emphasized that we expect that the civilians brought into government will be diligent, faithful, committed, and loyal in helping us achieve our goals.

Showing confidence that through his serious endeavors the critical fuel shortage is now over, the head of state extended thanks to the business community, foreign residents, and all Liberians for their faithful and sympathetic understanding demonstrated during the last 3 weeks. As a further measure of preventing a repetition of the recent experience, Dr Doe revealed that the government is actively considering the opening of a market for the importation of refined products on the basis of a free enterprise system. He therefore called on all interested parties to submit their proposals in this regard to his office for consideration.

NIGER

ALIENS ARRESTED IN 2-WEEK 'CLEANUP OPERATION'

AB231304 Lagos NAN in English 1250 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Minna, Mar 2 (NAN) -- The Immigration Department in Niger has arrested more than 100 aliens in a clean-up operation which lasted two weeks for failing to obey the quit order. An investigation by the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) showed that many of the arrested aliens, mostly Togolese and Niger nationals, [passage indistinct]. In an interview, some of the aliens who refused to identify themselves said they were arrested in remote villages.

The senior immigration officer in the state, Alhaji Usman Biu told NAN that he could neither confirm nor deny the story.

NIGERIA

SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL ELECTION RELEASED

AB231606 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The order for this year's general election was released in Lagos today. The presidential election is the first on the schedule and will be held on the 6th of August this year. This will be followed with the gubernatorial election which will take place on 13th of August this year. The first presidential run-off election if any will take place on the 16th of August while a similar exercise with regard to the gubernatorial run-off election will be held on 23d of August. The second presidential run-off elections if any have been fixed for the 29th of August while the gubernatorial run-off in the same category will be held on the 31st of August. Elections into the National Assembly are also to be held in August. The first of the elections for the Senate will take place on 20th of August to be followed by elections to the House of Representatives in August. The last election under the schedule is to the House of the State Assemblies. These will be held on the 3d of September. Announcing this schedule at a news conference in Lagos, the chairman of the Federal Electoral Commission, Mr Justice Ovie-Whisky, said that the obvious advantage of the sequence was that the size of the constituencies of the candidates will diminish with each succeeding election. This, he explained, would ensure that field workers and overseers will continue to work for their respective political parties until the end of the elections.

AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER RATIFIED

AB180946 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Nigeria has ratified the African charter of human and people's rights, in furtherance of the OAU decision in Banjul, the Gambian capital, in 1981. This follows the signing into law yesterday of the African Charter on people's rights ratification and enforcement bill 1982, by President Shehu Shagari.

In a speech at the ceremony, the president remarked that his assent to the bill represented Nigeria's compliance with the collective decision of African governments on the promotion and protection of human rights. He expressed the hope that other African countries which have not already ratified the charter will do so. The president pointed out that for Nigerians, the act will serve as a reinforcement of the relevant provisions of the country's constitution which outlined the fundamental rights of every citizen.

On the international scene, President Shehu Shagari maintained that the legislation will reinforce Nigeria's demand for the right to self-determination for the oppressed people outside Africa.

HUNDREDS REPORTEDLY TRYING TO RETURN TO COUNTRY

AB221208 Paris AFP in English 1102 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Lagos, March 22 (AFP) -- Seven illegal immigrants from Togo, aged between 15 and 32, were arrested last week as they tried to re-enter Nigeria, an official of the Immigration Department said here yesterday. The seven were among hundreds of people reported to have been trying to return to Nigeria, after being expelled in January in a mass exodus of more than a million people.

Press reports said that many illegal immigrants had stayed behind when the rest left, and when reprisals were taken against them others started trickling back in the country. The immigration official said the Togolese were trying to reach western Nigeria, where they hoped to be taken on as domestic staff. Their vehicle was confiscated, the official added.

UPPER VOLTA

LIBYAN GIFT TO INFORMATION DEPARTMENT REPORTED

AB220916 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah yesterday morning gave aid worth 10 million CFA francs to the Department of Information, specifically to the radio and television sectors. This is a spontaneous gesture by the Libyan delegation which recently visited the premises of the two branches of the press.

In addition to this sum of money, Libya will provide the department with technical equipment and experts who will arrive soon in our country in order to discuss the department's need with the officials concerned.

To this effect, Adama Fofana, our minister of information, posts, and telecommunication, who received this 10 million CFA franc gift from the leader of the Libyan delegation yesterday morning, will also visit Libya very shortly to discuss the issue.

MAURITIUS

PRIME MINISTER HOLDS TALKS ON POLITICAL CRISIS

AB231551 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Port Louis, March 23 (AFP) -- Mauritian Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth today held talks with his Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) in an attempt to resolve the political crisis triggered by yesterday's resignation of 11 Cabinet ministers out of a total 18. Political observers here said that the prime minister may announce the members of a new Cabinet on Friday which would enjoy the support of part of the MMM deputies, who hold two-thirds of the seats in the legislature, and of the junior member of the coalition government, the Mauritian Socialist Party (PSM).

Nine of the outgoing ministers were from the MMM, including Finance Minister Paul Berenger and Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Claude de L'Estrac, while the two others belonged to the PSM. The MMM dissidents, who resigned in protest against Mr. Jugnauth's lack of solidarity with his own party in intra-government quarrels, will continue to sit in Parliament but will not join the ranks of the centre-right opposition, which only has four deputies.

The crisis began with the dismissal of the director of the Mauritian Broadcasting Corporation, Gaetan Essoo, by the Prime Minister and Information Minister Harish Boodhoo, the PSM leader. But the latest moves took place against a background of considerable disagreement in Mauritian left-wing circles over the government's economic policy.

Mr. Berenger, who set off a government crisis last October by resigning, is calling for a financial austerity programme and economic recovery through boosting the private sector, which is demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. The PSM rejects such a policy and has accused the government of giving "hand-outs" to the sugar industry, which is the island's main economic activity.

Observers commented that a rapid solution to the crisis must be sought because both the IMF and the World Bank are shortly to decide whether to give Mauritius additional financial support.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO CLAIMS 28 RSA SOLDIERS KILLED 4-16 MAR

AB231631 Paris AFP in French 1438 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Lusaka, 23 Mar (AFP) -- SWAPO killed 28 South African soldiers during fights that took place between 4 and 16 March in Namibia, a SWAPO communique announced in Lusaka on Wednesday. A spokesman for the organization further stated that on 13 March, a sabotage unit destroyed the South African administrative headquarters building for Bantu cooperation and investments in Oshakati, northern Namibia, causing material damages amounting to $200,000.

On 21 March, South African security forces announced the loss of 17 men, among which six South African soldiers since the beginning of the offensive launched in mid-February by the PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] wing of the SWAPO army in northern Namibia. According to Pretoria, out of about 800 PLAN men from Angola who managed to infiltrate into the north of the territory, 205 have been killed.

SOUTH AFRICA

GOVERNMENT REFUSES MERCY FOR ANC GUERRILLAS

MB231550 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1700 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] There has been a response from South Africa's Government to appeals for mercy for six guerrillas who have been sentenced to death. A spokesperson for Prime Minister Pieter Botha says the government is completely independent from the judiciary. He says because of this it cannot interfere with decisions made by the courts. State President Marais Viljoen is apparently considering pleas for clemency on behalf of the six. They were convicted of carrying out guerrilla attacks in South Africa.

The latest appeal for clemency has come from Seychelles President Albert Rene. He said if the sentences were commuted he would commute the death sentences given to four mercenaries for their roles in the abortive coup bid in Seychelles in 1981.

SWAZILAND

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED

MB231924 Mbabane Domestic Service in Siswati 1715 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] [Announcer] My fellow courtrymen: Today, we were at Lobamba, where all the chiefs of the Kingdom were invited to assemble. This is how the proceedings went. Before we begin let us sing the praises of King Mswati. [90-second recording of praise singer]

[Announcer] After the praise singer had finished with King Mswati's praises, Mr Vusumuzi Bhembe, governor of Lobamba, then stood up and greeted all the chiefs of the Kingdom.

[Begin Bhembe recording] Her majesty greets you all, my fellow countrymen! Nkosi! [Crowd responds: Nkosi!] [end Bhembe recording]

[Announcer] After the governor of Lobamba had greeted all the chiefs of the kingdom, then Prince Sozisa arrived on the scene. Prince Sozisa is the one who conveyed the monarch's speech.

[Begin Sozisa recording] Nkosi! Your Majesty, Your Royal Highnesses, and all of you, my countrymen: What the monarch has summoned you here for is to be present, my fellow countrymen. She has summoned you because it is our custom that after a person has worked, no matter, no matter the duration of tenure, the monarch then determines that that person can now be retired. The monarch has come to inform you that Mabandla, son of my brother Mancibane, has been retired from his post without prejudice. Nkosi! [Crowd responds: Nkosi!]

The one who is going to fill this vacancy is Prince Bhekimpi, of Enkabe area. Nkosi! [Crowd responds: Nkosi!] I do not wish to indulge in a lengthy address, as my brains are on the limited side. You would soon figure out that I was telling tall stories, and it would dilute the meaning of the monarch's message. Oh, no! I am not going to go into the attendant details of this matter. Surely, it is our custom that after a person has worked the monarch then graciously thanks him and relieves him of his position. Nkosi! [Crowd responds: Nkosi!] [end Sozisa recording]

[Announcer] That's how the show went on down there at home, Lobamba.